

NEWS SUMMARY

Killer's funeral set for tomorrow

The body of Michael Ryan, who killed 16 people in Hungerford, Berkshire, last month before shooting himself, will be cremated at Reading tomorrow.

Canon John Reynolds, vicar of St Mary's parish church, Calne, who buried Ryan's mother, Mrs Dorothy Ryan, and the Rev David Salt, vicar of Hungerford, will take the service jointly. Last night, the nature of the prayers and the address, if one is to be given at all in the 15-minute service, was still being decided.

The bodies of Mr Rowland Mason and his wife, Sheila, will be buried at St Lawrence's parish church, in Hungerford, this afternoon. Mr Mason, aged 70, and Mrs Mason, aged 66, were shot in their home in Southview near Ryan's home. They are the last victims to be buried.

Meanwhile, the first payments were made yesterday from the Hungerford appeal fund, estimated at £400,000, with contributions still arriving, to the relatives of people killed. Money has been allocated to several families, but no details were given.

Shotgun siege

A man who had been jilted by his girl friend held 100 police at bay with a shotgun for five hours yesterday.

Canterbury centre was sealed off after the man, a cleaner aged 21, locked himself into an office in St George's Place, and then fired three shots through a window.

For more than two hours, police talked to the gunman by telephone about his love tangles and his heavy debts. After five hours the man gave himself up and was taken away for questioning.

Two hurt on ferry

Two passengers were slightly injured when a ferry from Ryde on the Isle of Wight struck a quay as it approached Portsmouth yesterday.

Sealink British Ferries said the vessel, Our Lady Pamela, was carrying 230 passengers. Both injured passengers — one was knocked out of a seat, the other was thought to have been thrown down a stairwell by the impact — were treated in hospital.

Spirit of success

A Hong Kong hotel group has bought eight Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit cars worth £994,000 to collect VIP guests from the airport and for shopping trips.

The Peninsula Hotel's last fleet of nine Rolls-Royces each covered more than 400 miles a week on some of the world's most congested roads and will continue in service with other Hong Kong hotels until they have travelled more than 200,000 miles each.

The eight Rolls-Royces represent a third of all the Crewe-built cars sold in Hong Kong this year.

Men drop most litter

Almost all litter louts are men. Home Office statistics show. In 1985 a total of 1,719 people were fined for dropping litter or dumping rubbish. Of those only 99 were women — less than 6 per cent.

Mr Mark Andrew, Yorkshire and Humberside regional director of the Keep Britain Tidy group, said yesterday: "It is the first time the statistics have shown the difference between prosecutions of the sexes and they show that males are the worst offenders."

In West Yorkshire 60 people were fined, of whom 56 were men.

Minister's vital trip to US jails

By Peter Evans

A visit to the United States next week by Lord Cailness, Minister of State at the Home Office responsible for prisons, will be crucial to the Government's decision on involving private enterprise in jails here.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said on July 16 that he was sure the skills and knowledge of the private sector had a bigger part to play in the accelerated prison building programme.

And he said that Lord Cailness would report to him about the further possibilities for private enterprise immediately after the visit.

Lord Cailness will examine five prison establishments run by private companies during his 10-day trip.

There is pressure on the Government to use more private enterprise. A report by the Adam Smith Institute in April said privately managed prisons in the United States were cheaper, more quickly built and provided much better conditions for prisoners, and recommended an experiment in Britain.

Lord Cailness is also to visit six penal establishments run by federal and county authorities, one of which is high-rise.

MPs on the Commons home affairs committee, who went to the United States for their report on prisons, said that high-rise jails should be considered near city centres and courts.

They also recommended that the Government study the use of US-style electronic tagging, used to check that offenders held in the community are staying within bounds.

Missiles in shop

Military weapons including anti-tank missiles, mines and grenades were seen in the window of an antiques shop by a soldier at the weekend, according to police.

The premises were visited by police and the equipment, understood to include a bazooka rocket, two hand guns and hundreds of rounds of ammunition was taken away.

The owner of the shop, in Gillingham, Kent, has been questioned and bailed by detectives. Police say there is a "strong possibility" he will be charged.

Warning on rents

Council rents might have rise to pay for housing repairs. Mr William Waldegrave, Minister for Housing and Planning, said yesterday.

Mr Waldegrave said on Radio 4 that it was vital that council rents were sufficient to repair local authority homes.

He agreed an increase might mean "a little more" spending by the Government on housing benefits for claimants. "But there is no point in keeping rents down to the point where the stock gets into a ridiculously dilapidated state."

Inquiry on 'race hate' courses

By David Sapsted

The Commission for Racial Equality is to investigate charges that black tutors on racial awareness courses in Birmingham are threatening to end the careers of white, local government employees if they do not embrace the "right" attitude towards ethnic minorities.

Dame Jill Knight, the Conservative MP compiling a dossier on the allegations, said last night that the staff involved were too scared to leave their names used in a formal complaint.

Meanwhile, Sir Peter Bowner, chairman of the London Boroughs Association, said that he would be demanding an investigation into why more than £22,000 of ratepayers' money was being spent this year supporting the Racial Awareness Programme Unit.

It has been accused of organizing courses which brand all whites as racist and call for blacks to get every job vacancy, to get higher pay than whites, and to be entitled to additional state benefits.

Dame Jill said that she had received at least a dozen complaints from white council employees in Birmingham, several of whom said they were told to attend the courses or risk future promotion, who claimed they were bullied, abused and threatened by black tutors. She said she will raise the issue in the Commons.

The MP said that the accusations she had received had described the tutors as adopting an attitude of "frenzied hatred" towards whites. "The tutors showed contempt and hatred towards white social workers simply because of their race," she said.

Police believe suspects may belong to IRA unit

By Craig Seton

Police holding three people for questioning about a suspected terrorist plot to assassinate Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, believe they are part of an IRA "active service unit" which came secretly to England two weeks ago.

The two men and a woman, all in their 20s and with Dublin addresses, are believed to have arrived from the Irish Republic at a ferry port in Wales.

Detectives suspect that the three may have been sent to England to reconnoitre Mr King's family home in Wiltshire in readiness for a possible attempt later on to murder him.

Yesterday Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, granted police in Wiltshire a three-day extension under the special provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act to continue questioning the three suspects about the alleged conspiracy to murder Mr King.

Mr David Cooke, the assistant chief constable of Wiltshire, has taken charge of the operation, which involves officers from Scotland Yard.

One of the men and the woman were detained "in suspicious circumstances" on Mr King's land near his heavily-guarded farmhouse at Ford, near Chippenham, Wiltshire on Sunday.

The second man was arrested later that day by Avon and Somerset police at a camping site at Woolley Hole, a beauty spot near Cheddar Gorge, 25 miles from Mr King's home.

When the man was arrested, it is understood that more than £3,000 in £50 notes was recovered from his tent. Police suspect that all three of those under arrest were staying at the camp site over the Bank holiday weekend.

It is understood that police also recovered camouflage jackets and documents.

Police took away two tents that the three people were believed to have used. According to witnesses, when the tents were taken up the grass beneath them had turned yellow, suggesting they had been there for several days.

All three are being questioned by detectives at Chippenham police station. Wiltshire police believe that while Mr King's life may not have been directly threatened, the alleged IRA unit came secretly to England as part of wider conspiracy to plan his assassination.

Mr King, aged 54, was on holiday in Scotland with his wife Jane when the arrests took place.

The three suspects were immediately detained under the provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act which permits police to hold them for an initial 48 hours.

After that period, the police are obliged to ask the Home Secretary for extensions of up to five days. The three could be held until Sunday night if a further extension is applied for.

Wiltshire police want to trace a woman in her mid-20s accompanied by a child aged five or six who was seen talking to the man at the camp site before his arrest.

Police want to find her to eliminate her from their inquiries.

Security forces on the Irish border were yesterday treating with extreme caution what appeared to be a body dumped in a ditch beside a road 400 yards north of the border in South Armagh.

It is thought to be the body of a man executed by the Provisional IRA as a police informer but not yet named by his killers.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary said it could be a considerable time before officers moved in for a close examination because of the possibility of booby traps.

26 appear in court after Notting Hill Carnival violence

By Howard Foster

Twenty-six people appeared in court in London yesterday after violence erupted at the Notting Hill Carnival over the Bank holiday.

The charges covered a wide range of offences including robbery, the carrying of knives, possession and supply of drugs, attempted wounding and threatening behaviour.

A small number of the defendants gave Birmingham addresses, including one man charged with possessing and supplying cannabis and attempted malicious wounding.

Several knives were shown as exhibits to magistrates at Marylebone Magistrates' Court yesterday.

So heavy was the pressure on staff that the work of all three Marylebone magistrates was rearranged to hear the cases.

There were frequent interruptions and adjournments as solicitors processed the details of defendants waiting in the cells and brought papers to put before the court.

The defendants were mostly granted bail and their cases were adjourned until later in the month, although in a few cases, they were kept in custody.

Among the cases heard yesterday:

Mr Patrick Alladice, aged 24, of Linwood Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, was accused of possessing cannabis, supplying it and attempted malicious wounding. He was remanded in custody until September 8.

Mr Delroy Stewart, aged 20, of Elias Place, south-east London, was also remanded in custody, accused of possessing a kitchen knife when arrested on the second day of the carnival.

Shopkeepers call for festival action

The most colourful man in Notting Hill said yesterday that the time had come to put a curfew on the area's colourful carnival.

Mr Marc Saint, the Portobello Road tattooist, was one of many local shopkeepers and residents who felt that action must be taken now to prevent a repetition of Monday night's rioting.

Mr Saint, whose tattoo gallery and studio are in the Westway Flyover are in the heart of the carnival area, said: "The trouble always starts at dusk on the last evening."

"The carnival ought to be curtailed and all activities stopped by 5pm on the last day."

"This would allow people a clear period of time to leave the area before dusk falls at 7.30. I think it should only be allowed to continue on this basis."

Most shopkeepers, opening up yesterday on a scene of piles of refuse and thousands of empty drink cans and bottles, with smashed windows in houses, shops and restaurants, felt with weary resignation that something must be done to limit the violence.

Mr Saint, a former sergeant major in the Royal Marines, who bears hundreds of tattoos from neck to toe, watched from his roof as the rioting developed.

He said that the violence even though the ideal remains one to which major politicians publicly aspire.

While 67 per cent compared with 76 per cent four years ago still hoped for unity, less than 40 per cent were prepared to accept higher taxation as a price for reunification.

The results appear to reflect a changing perception of the North, perhaps influenced by the carnage of violence, the new Ireland forum and the Anglo-Irish agreement as well as social and political changes within the Republic.

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The only criterion for imposing or requesting a prohibition order is the chief officer's responsible belief that serious public disorder cannot be prevented by the exercise of other powers under the Act.

There seemed to some confusion yesterday as to whether the Notting Hill Carnival would fall into the category of a procession or an assembly; but a spokesman for the Home Office said this would be for the police to decide — and then, presumably, for the Home Secretary to approve.

Examples of assemblies within the Public Order Act are pickets, loobies, gigs, pop festivals, queues for buses and tickets and a group of people drinking in a public house garden.

As for processions, in the case of Kent v. Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, observed: "A public procession is the act of a body of persons marching along in orderly succession — see Oxford English Dictionary. All kinds of processions take place every day up and down the country — carnivals, weddings, funerals, processions to the Houses of Parliament, marches at Trafalgar Square and so forth."

Certain kinds of public processions are exempt from some of the Act's requirements, such as giving police advance notice: those commonly or customarily held in that police area; or funeral processions organized by a funeral director in the normal course of his business. The Notting Hill Carnival would fall within this exemption.

But no exemptions seem to apply to the power to ban processions.

Leading article, page 11

Big job to do, says Scarman

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Lord Scarman, who conducted the inquiry into the Brixton riots, says in a book to be published next week there has been misdirection and lack of effort since the Brixton report.

He was one of the chairmen at a conference reported in the book. *The Roots of Urban Unrest*, which forebodes clashes such as those at Notting Hill. Dr John Solomos, of the University of Warwick, one of the editors, said yesterday that Notting Hill was an example of recurrent trouble if no heed was taken of dangerous symptoms.

Those were outlined in the book, based on a conference 18 months ago.

Lord Scarman comments on remarks by Miss Usha Prashar, director of the National Council for Voluntary Organizations, that little action had been taken, in spite of at least 20 years of discussion.

"This is sadly so, and I agree with the implication of her remarks that there has been a misdirection of effort, as well as in some respects a lack of effort." Although there was no need for despair there was "one hell of a job to be done."

The Roots of Urban Unrest (Penguin), to be published September 10; flexicover £7.95; hardcover £22.50.

Mr Lusk said he was surprised by the NUM strike threat after the union had accepted the code for eight years. "I think all issues should be talked through and thought through. They should never bring out a lot of innocent people on strike over a scheme which Arthur

Scargill and his mates accepted eight years ago.

"If it had been a brand new code it would have been a different argument but it has been in operation for eight years and has caused no real trouble."

The UDM leader said he did not believe there was anything particularly contentious in a clause which stated that miners could be disciplined outside their place of employment if it affected their suitability to work in the pits.

Mr Lusk strongly denied NUM accusations that his union was to blame for accepting the revised code put forward by British Coal.

"We do not accept the code and never have done. We have simply acknowledged the code and noted it in the same way as the NUM did eight years ago."

The UDM leader said his union had not asked for the matter to be placed before Acas. "That does not mean to say that we have accepted it."



Mr Ernest Saunders with his son James yesterday.

Former Guinness head gets further remand

Mr Ernest Saunders, the former chairman and chief executive of Guinness, was further remanded on £500,000 bail at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday on charges of destroying and falsifying documents and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Mr Simon Spence, for Mr Saunders, in agreeing to a further remand until November 3, said he was concerned at the length of time that the charges had been active.

Mr Saunders was arrested and charged on May 7. Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, chairman of Lombe, and Mr Herbert Heinzel, a family friend, each provided sureties of £250,000.

Mr Saunders, who appeared

in court with his son, James, issued a statement through his solicitors after the hearing in which he described himself as "extremely well, active and fighting fit".

He has spent most of this year in Switzerland with his wife, who is ill, but will remain in London for the time being.

Mr Saunders is being sued by Guinness over a £5.2 million payment made to Mr Thomas Ward, a former Guinness director. He is suing Guinness also for damages for wrongful dismissal.

He said in the statement that he wanted to thank the "huge number of people, who have written to me with messages of support".

UDM attacks Scargill strike threat on code

By Roland Rodd

The Union of Democratic Mineworkers accused Mr Arthur Scargill yesterday of attempting to "rally his soldiers out on strike" over a disciplinary code which had been in operation for eight years.

Mr Roy Lusk, president of the UDM, met officials yesterday at the Acas conciliation service which has been called in by British Coal to try to resolve the dispute.

The National Union of Mineworkers has warned of "anarchy" in the pits after 77 per cent of its members who voted in last week's ballot backed industrial action unless British Coal's code of conduct is withdrawn.

Mr Lusk said he was surprised by the NUM strike threat after the union had accepted the code for eight years. "I think all issues should be talked through and thought through. They should never bring out a lot of innocent people on strike over a scheme which Arthur

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Dockers' reprieve on jobs threat

By Tim Jones

The Government has decided not to try to end the 40-year-old National Docks Labour Scheme which guarantees dockers a job for life irrespective of whether work is available. Such a move would have brought it into conflict with the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The decision has been taken in spite of a warning by the Grimsby Landing Company that it will be forced to go into liquidation because of the scheme, which this year has obliged it to pay £140,000 "sleeping money" to dockers when they have been at home.

The dockers, members of the transport union, recently voted by two to one to take industrial action if the scheme were threatened. The vote was in response to a campaign, led by the National Association of Port Employers, to end the scheme. Employers claim it is archaic and has led to "investment blight".

But the Government has decided to edge away from a damaging confrontation.

Although in force in 70 docks in Britain, only about 10,000 of the country's 40,000 dockers are covered by it, and their numbers are dwindling through retirement or acceptance of severance pay.

If the Grimsby Landing Company goes into liquidation other companies in the Grimsby commercial docks complex will be obliged by law to take on the 66 fish porters employed by the company.

The Transport and General Workers' Union yesterday launched a new attack on trade unionists in favour of co-operating with management over single union no-strike deals.

In the latest issue of the *Voice of the Unions*, Mr Bill Morris, deputy general secretary of

Pressure on wives to leave husbands, abuse inquiry told

By Peter Davenport

Social workers in Cleveland put pressure on the mothers of children taken into care to leave their husbands, a priest said yesterday.

The Rev Michael Wright was speaking at the judicial inquiry into the Cleveland child sexual abuse controversy at Middlesbrough, after nine days of closed sessions during which parents gave evidence. Yesterday's evidence was the first in an open session before Mr Justice Butler-Sloss.

Mr Wright outlined in full the anguish of parents caught up in the abuse controversy. He is the co-ordinator of the Cleveland Parents' Support Group, formed to help affected families. Thirty-two couples whose children are involved in the case are members of his group.

Mr Wright said mothers who wanted to hasten the return of their children were pressured by social workers to separate from their husbands, who were suspected of being the abusers. One father did move out of the family home, but three weeks later his children were still in care.

He said parents whose children had been taken into care by social workers after doctors had diagnosed that they were victims of sexual abuse faced increased anxiety and stress. The parents were left bewildered, frustrated, confused and fearful that they would never see their children again.

He said some families were so desperate that they even considered running away from the authorities with their children.

One pregnant woman whose two children had been taken into care was so afraid that the same fate would befall her still unborn child that she underwent an abortion.

A father and a grandfather suffered heart attacks which they both attributed to the stress they were suffering. Another father had to be

talked out of committing suicide.

One man, Mr Wright said, was told by social workers that they regarded the fact that he had put cream on his young daughter's bottom after bathing her as a "perverted activity".

He said: "It was as if the normal activities of family life were being regarded as perverted and sexually odd".

Mr Wright said another father, whose two children were taken away, saw his business suffer as neighbours and customers learnt of the allegations against him.

The children taken into care were also showing increased anxiety, he said.

"A lot of children are showing signs of disturbed behaviour. Many parents still have very strong feelings of anger, insecurity, tension and aspects of stress. Grandparents and other family members have these feelings too."

Mr Wright said the parents in his support group fell into three categories: a small group who acknowledged that their children had been abused and were grateful for the diagnosis; a small number who thought others may have abused their children and were suspicious of neighbours, friends and family; and the largest group, who believed there was nothing to substantiate the diagnosis.

The inquiry has been told that most children were diagnosed as suffering sexual abuse by two paediatric consultants working at the Middlesbrough General Hospital, Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt.

The diagnoses were often made after the children had been admitted to hospital for other reasons.

Mr Wright said yesterday that he had a 40-minute meeting on June 22 with Mr Michael Bishop, the director of Cleveland social services, when he raised 15 points of

concern about the case and how it had been handled.

He was concerned about the accuracy of the diagnoses and the conduct of the doctors involved, in particular the "insensitive" manner in which their examinations were carried out.

No reassurance was offered to children, they were not calmed or relaxed and the doctors were not prepared to listen to possible alternative explanations for their diagnoses, Mr Wright said.

There was also concern about the "automatic consequences" of place of safety orders being obtained once a diagnosis of sexual abuse had been made, the lack of parental rights to obtain a second medical opinion and the fear of long, drawn-out legal proceedings and of children being permanently separated from their parents.

Mr Wright said parents were anxious about rebuilding relationships with their children, with some expressing fears of touching the youngsters "when, or if, we get them back".

He said social workers refused to allow family doctors to visit the children, and the whole situation had resulted in a build-up of distrust of the social services.

"The repercussions are likely to occur for many years to come", he said. "Parents feel that their relationship with their children has changed because of the separation and the restriction of access visits."

Some parents, he said, feared they would have to move away from their present homes in order to reduce difficulties for their children. Others believed they might never be reunited with their children and would need constant help and support from his group.

The inquiry continues today.

Woman's touch for tough battalion



Second-Lieutenant Anne Whittaker on parade after reporting for duty yesterday with one of the toughest regiments in the British Army. Aged 23, she becomes the only woman among 780 men of the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles based at Church Crookham, Hampshire.

Miss Whittaker, who was born in

Wigan, joined the battalion as assistant adjutant after gaining her commission at Sandhurst.

She said: "I joined the Army for a challenge; I didn't want a nine-to-five job and this certainly won't be". She will be in charge of the day-to-day running of the battalion's administration.

"As far as communication goes I can only say hello and goodbye in Gurkha but I hope to go on a course to Hong Kong."

"I don't know how the men will react to me but being stationed in England they have become accustomed to seeing female officers."

(Photograph: Chris Harris)

Eagle is centre of legal debate

A fierce-looking golden eagle sat on the right of a magistrate's bench in a courtroom yesterday.

The eagle, stuffed and mounted, is the main exhibit in a case brought by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds against Bonham's, the auctioneers and a West Country taxidermist.

Bonham's and the taxidermist, Mr Malcolm Everett, aged 40, of Trefusis Close, Truro, pleaded not guilty at Haverford Road Magistrates' Court, central London, yesterday to unlawful possession of the bird, which has a 6ft 3in wingspan.

It is the first prosecution of its kind under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.

Mr David Love, for the prosecution, said a person found in possession of a protected wild bird would be guilty of an offence if the bird had been unlawfully killed, even if the person had not known how it died.

The court was told the golden eagle was put up for auction by Mr Everett in July last year at Bonham's auction rooms in Lots Road, Chelsea, south-west London, for a sale of natural history items.

RSPB investigation officers seized the eagle, valued at £600, after noticing it did not have an official Department of the Environment tag as required by the Act.

Three days later they searched Mr Everett's home with a warrant and seized various items, including a register in which he recorded buying the eagle in February 1986, and the cause of death as "overhead cable".

One of the officers, Mr Andrew Jones, said in his opinion the bird had been shot by a high-velocity rifle bullet that had pierced its wing and passed through its body.

In a statement read to the court, Mr Robert Law said he was on holiday in Scotland when he found the dead eagle on the ground in a forest in North Uist. He passed it on to Mr Hopkins, who stuffed it.

Mr Law later exchanged the eagle for books and the new owner subsequently sold it to Mr Everett for £250.

The trial continues today.

Court case on state of river

Mr Oliver Curtis, who claims fish farms are polluting the Avon and Test rivers in Hampshire, is suing the Southern Water Authority.

Mr Curtis, aged 67, whose 500-acre New Forest estate borders the rivers, was yesterday given leave to seek High Court orders requiring the authority to take anti-pollution measures.

Bound man drowns in van

A man was found drowned in his van yesterday with his feet tied together and roped to the steering wheel.

Police believe Mr Simon Fatten, aged 24, of Darley Abbey, near Derby, drove into the river Derwent, Derby, after an argument with his girl friend.

Widow 'was buried alive'

Mrs Margaret O'Hara, aged 75, a widow of Fford, Co. Mayo, in the Irish Republic, probably died of asphyxiation after being buried alive, forensic scientists have said.

Her body was discovered on Monday and detectives were yesterday understood to be interviewing her son, aged 30.

Hayward wins more time

Simon Hayward, a captain in The Life Guards, has been given an extra two weeks to prepare his appeal against a conviction for smuggling 50 kilograms of hashish into Sweden.

Hayward, jailed for five years, had complained in a letter to *The Times* that the appeal was being rushed.

Police report on mosque fire

A report on a fire that destroyed a mosque is to be sent to the crown prosecution service after police interviewed a boy aged 14.

The boy was among 35 children who escaped unhurt from the mosque in Toller Lane, Bradford, West Yorkshire, on Monday night.

Second foot found by sea

Police yesterday confirmed that a left foot in a white, size four training shoe, found on a beach at Morecambe on Monday night, matched a right foot found three miles away last month.

The feet belonged to a white girl aged 17 or more.

Vital school detection role

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Schools should have a greater role in detecting and preventing child abuse and teacher training in those issues should become a national priority, children's organisations said yesterday.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Dr Richard's and the Save the Children fund backed calls by an Essex headmaster for the Department of Education and Science to make training in child abuse issues compulsory for all teachers.

Mr Peter Maher, principal at the Harold Hill Community School in Romford, said that already more than 35 per cent of cases of child abuse are reported by teachers and pre-school workers.

He called on the Department of Education to set up a standing committee on educational responses to child abuse which would make recommendations on appropriate

forms of training programmes, terms of reference for teacher specialists and curricular materials for child safety projects.

Last April, the department issued a draft circular to local education authorities on handling child abuse, but Mr Maher said that the guidance failed to take account of the resource implications of training programmes.

Launching a book on the educational aspects of child abuse, Mr Maher said teachers were trained in normal child development so they were ideally placed to recognize abnormal behaviour.

"My fear is that, given they have no training in child abuse, many, many more cases may go undetected."

Mr Maher emphasized that basic teacher training in such issues could be fitted in after school hours in a two-hour session. School heads should

also be given training as many heads were tempted to dismiss reports from junior teachers, he said.

Many experts now agreed that at least one in ten and possibly one in three children were subject to some form of abuse, he said, so teachers could be faced with several children in their class who had been or were being abused.

Although several local authorities had produced guidelines on child abuse, many teachers were unaware that they existed. They also failed to recognize that child abuse crossed socio-economic groups and geographical boundaries.

"The belief that child abuse is not a problem of the middle class and not a problem for places like Guildford is ill-founded," he said.

Child Abuse: The Educational Perspective, edited by Peter Maher (Basil Blackwell, £19.50 hardback and £6.95 paperback).

Consultants offer treatment for all

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Three consultants from health service hospitals in London have set up a joint venture with the private sector to provide a test tube baby service for all patients.

The project, the first involving three hospitals, allows NHS patients attending conventional fertility clinics to use the more expensive in vitro fertilization and GIFT treatments for the first time.

The consultants, from Guy's Hospital, The London Bridge Hospital and Newham Hospital, have set up the Bridge Fertility Clinic in the private London Bridge Hospital near Guy's.

They aim to offer IVF and GIFT treatment to 250 private patients at the Bridge Clinic and to between 150 and 300 patients in their hospitals.

Professor Geddis Grud-

zinski, consultant obstetrician at The London Hospital, Mr Michael Chapman, consultant gynaecologist and obstetrician at Guy's Hospital and Mr Ovang Djababakh, consultant obstetrician at Newham, have raised the £30,000 capital and £100,000 revenue from private investors.

They are renting accommodation including theatre space and beds from the London Bridge Hospital for their private patients. Health service patients will use the Bridge clinic only for certain tests and out-patient treatment not normally available.

Mr Chapman said the consultants have academic appointments so any profits made will be put into the appropriate medical school's research fund.

The venture is not adding significant costs to the health service as the methods are less time consuming than conventional tubal infertility treatment which could take up to eight days. "We will be seeing more patients in the same number of beds", Mr Chapman said.

Two embryologists, secretaries and nurses are employed by the Bridge Clinic and extra registrars holding health service contracts will work in both sectors, paid for by the research funds.

A proposals to charge health service patients a minimal cost for the treatment is likely to be dropped because of opposition from the health authority.

Mr Chapman said he already had a waiting list of 100

patients for health service treatment although some patients were now choosing to avoid the wait and go private.

They will face a bill of £1,275 for the first pregnancy test and scan. If that is unsuccessful a second treatment costs £1,175 and any subsequent treatments £1,075.

Mr Chapman says that one woman being treated under the NHS and several women being treated privately are already pregnant.

Earlier this summer St Bartholomew's Hospital announced a similar venture with American Medical International to set up a clinic, which opens next week, in which consultants and junior doctors rotate between the private and public sectors.

Fall death man 'hit by defeat'

A Labour parliamentary candidate who fell to his death from the balcony of a fourth floor flat had been under stress since his defeat in the general election, friends said yesterday.

Mr Richard Willey fell from a flat in Whitehall owned by the stepfather of his regular female companion, Miss Celia Percival.

Police say foul play is not suspected. Mr Willey's father, Mr Fred Willey, was a minister in the government of Mr Harold Wilson.

A Labour Party colleague said yesterday that Mr Willey had been "devastated" by his defeat in the general election.

Before the general election Mr Willey, who lived at Norton Bar Prestigne, was re-elected to Radnor District Council.

The council's vice-chairman, Mr John Lewis, said: "He seemed to be suffering from the effects of stress".

Mr Richard Livsey, the Liberal/Alliance candidate who defeated Dr Willey, said: "Dr Willey was a fine man and a worthy political opponent."

Women solicitors on the increase

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The number of women partners in solicitors' practices has grown by 50 per cent in the past four years and sole practitioners by 52 per cent, according to a Law Society report, published today.

However the report shows "striking differences" in the career patterns of male and female solicitors, with men achieving partnership at about twice the comparative rate of women.

Three times as many women remain as assistant solicitors 10 years after admission compared with men on a proportionate basis, the report says.

The annual statistical report of the society states that the proportion of women law graduates is moving steadily towards 50 per cent.

It says that women law graduates are also achieving better-class degrees than men, with the number of women passing the solicitors' finals examinations in 1986-87 exceeding the number of men for the first time. Significantly, more women passed at the first attempt.

Women's share of new articles clerkships has also risen, reaching 50 per cent exactly in the first eight months of 1986-87. But the proportion of women solicitors who continue to practise declines rapidly after the first year of admission to the roll, with 36 per cent not holding a certificate after 10 years, compared with only 12 per cent of men.

Research also shows that up to 30 per cent of women with practising certificates are working only part-time or not at all.

The report also highlights "the increasing dominance of London and the south of England", with solicitors in private practice in Greater London growing by nearly 4 per cent for the year, double the national rate.

At the end of 1986 there were 63,129 solicitors on the roll, a rise of 3.7 per cent. Of these, 50,904 are men and 12,225 are women, while 47,906 had practising certificates.

Annual Statistical Report 1987 (Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2; £6.50).

Dog left in car died of heatstroke

The owner of a pup which died of heatstroke after she left it in her car for up to two hours was yesterday banned from keeping a dog for two years.

On a sweltering day, Mrs Eileen Douglas, aged 27, had parked 400 yards from a playgroup centre where she had taken her two children. She left a window of the car open three inches.

A passer-by noticed the dog, an eight-month-old boxer, lying on the front seat with its teeth clenching the door handle.

The car was so hot an RSPCA inspector called to the scene could only keep his hands on the roof of the vehicle for a few seconds. Camberwell Green magistrates in south London were told. The dead dog was too hot to handle.

Mrs Douglas, of Loughborough Road, Stockwell, south-west London, admitted causing unnecessary suffering.

As well as the ban, she was fined £100 and ordered to pay a veterinary surgeon's fee of £74 and costs of £50.

Bank is 'taken to cleaners'

A man who posed as an office cleaner to steal headed notes, on which he forged a banker's draft, got away with nearly a quarter of a million pounds from a bank.

The man tricked his way past a security guard at the office of the Willmott Dixon building company in Upper Brook Street, Mayfair, central London, by claiming he was a new cleaner.

Instead of sweeping the floors and emptying the ash trays, the man stole headed company notepaper and drew up a false banker's draft by forging the signatures of the company chairman, Mr Ian Dixon, and the company secretary, Mr Christopher Jeffs.

A few days later he and a second man presented the banker's draft to the company's bank, the Midland, in Hinchin, Hertfordshire. Staff handed over £236,000 in German marks.

The bank at Hinchin is the one used by Willmott, based at Shefford, Bedfordshire.

Mr Brian Walter, of the Midland Bank said: "We are aware of a loss here last month. It involves stealing company letter heading and the issuing of forged instructions. The whole case was worked out in detail."

"The indications are that neither the company's nor the bank's staff was involved. It was someone outside."

The bank confirmed that it is the loser and not Willmott Dixon.

Mr Dixon, chairman, said: "There is no question of Willmott Dixon losing money."

Baritone quits Glyndebourne

By Lynda Mardin, Arts Correspondent

The leading singer in a new production planned by the Glyndebourne Touring Opera has withdrawn, it became known last night.

It is understood the baritone, Alan Opie, was not happy with the strong language he was required to sing in one scene of *The Electrification of the Soviet Union*. Some mystery also surrounded his departure from rehearsals.

A spokeswoman for the company said: "There is a scene in the piece that he just simply couldn't find a way to perform. He had had reservations for some time, and worked with the director and composer, but he could not find a way to feel comfortable."

The opera is due to have its world premiere at Glyndebourne on October 5 before a short regional tour. It is by the contemporary composer, Nigel Osborne, whose last

work was the controversial *Hell's Angels* at the Royal Court Theatre.

The libretto, based on Boris Pasternak's novella, *The Last Summer*, was written by Craig Raine, the poet.

Mr Opie, a principal with the English National Opera, was cast as the central character, Serezhka, a poet, who half dreams, half remembers the last summer of peace before the outbreak of the First World War and his emotional entanglements.

Mr Opie's agent said last night: "It has been a matter of artistic differences rather than argument. There has been no conflict. The problem has been known about for some time, but his name was announced in the hope they would find some way of working it out together."

The role will be sung by Omar Ebrahim, who had a smaller part in the production.

First new school with City backing opens

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

The cut and thrust of the City of London has come to the kindergarten.

The first school formed under the Business Expansion Scheme is opening its doors in St John's Wood, north London, this month to 61 pupils aged two to nine.

As the intake for Abercrombie Place School arrives at the restored Victorian building on Monday week in their grey and red uniforms, the children will probably be unaware that

if they burst into tears and say they want to go home they may be jeopardizing a £400,000 share offer.

Mrs Andrea Greystone, the American-born headmistress, has borrowed £140,000 to invest in the school herself, and is lending it a further interest-free, unsecured sum of £40,000.

Under the Business Expansion Scheme, parents who invest will not only receive the usual tax benefits but also £120 off the £950 term fees. The fees do not include meals, private tuition or music lessons.

Most comparable London prep schools charge about £500 a term, but Abercrombie Place promises class sizes of no more than 15 and, for older children, only four.

The share offer, a revised version of an earlier unsuccessful attempt to raise £800,000, is underwritten by the merchant bankers, Chancery Securities, whose managing director, Mr John Dodwell, is also on the board of directors of the school.

The original offer was made mainly to prospective parents. The new offer, which was

lower because Chancery Securities said, the school made good progress in registering pupils and the conversion of the building was well advanced, is on a wider basis. Pupils' parents are expected to make up about half the shareholders.

Although there are established schools in the area, Chancery is confident that Mrs Greystone, a former teacher of mathematics at St Paul's, the London public school, can increase the school roll to 350 by 1991. It is expected then to be making a

pre-tax annual profit of £300,000.

Investors are told they could see a return of more than 46 per cent per annum.

Mr Steven Mond, a senior executive at Chancery Securities, said yesterday: "It is much easier to work out the investment potential of a school because you can see more easily what is coming in and what is going out than with, say, a new technology venture."

Pupils already registered include children of Iranian, French and Japanese families.

SDP CONFERENCE

Merger split is a feverish menace, says MacLennan

Mr Robert MacLennan described the split in the SDP over merger with the Liberals as a "feverish, wrangling menace" rather than a debate. Addressing the conference as the new leader of the party, he spoke bitterly of the damage done by "the zealots in our midst" over the merger issue.

Mr MacLennan, who was given a standing ovation before as well as after his speech, opened by saying that he intended to lead a united party to achieve the purposes they all shared. Social democracy, as a body and a force of ideas, was indestructible.

"What has been put at risk by this bout of midsummer madness is the hope of seeing those social democratic ideas put to work in the next Government."

Their purpose as a political party was not the mere refinement of doctrine, but something more: the serious business of government.

There was laughter when he thanked Mr Charles Kennedy, MP, for nominating him as leader, and confessed to the feelings when Mr Kennedy had said that he felt it appropriate for a party in mid-life crisis to be led by someone with such manifest experience of mid-life.

"We meet today as Social Democrats in a single party. That is just as it should be. Who would have it otherwise (applause)? Not the friends of social democracy."

"It is our coherence, our common purposes, our very integrity, which other parties have most feared. At the beginning of our life our coherence was based on hope; the language of Limehouse did not offer nor sell out the encyclopedia of social democracy. From a party with a political stance but no policies we have become a party with well developed policies which mark out our stance."

They were agreed on those policies, which was hardly surprising since they had

brought to them a unique blend of imagination, expertise and democratic discussion. That achievement had enabled them, in partnership with the Liberal Party, to win the support of seven million electors in June, but June was not good enough. Under the electoral system 23 per cent of the British electorate was left with 22 MPs, so there had to be change.

No one within the two parties of the Alliance doubted the need for change in their relationship with the Liberal Party. A debate was not merely unavoidable, but imperative.

"But what was unwisely undertaken in the moments of exhaustion and distress following the election was not a debate. It was a feverish, wrangling menace (loud applause) to the very unity upon which our entire credibility so crucially depends" (applause).

The timing of the ballot might indeed have been unwise, but they all knew now that its mere postponement would not have cured the damaging extravagances of the zealots in their midst.

"Today the raging must stop (applause and cheers). The realisation starts here. I ask this conference now coolly to consider the consequences of this ballot, this consultative ballot, this far-from-final ballot of our party."

The party was neither ready nor willing to cast aside the achievements of six hard years without even considering what might emerge from the negotiations. He believed that when the negotiations were completed, the good sense of members would be clear. If the time was right for union, they would know, and so would he.

They would enter the negotiations with the Liberal Party with an immense advantage. They knew their own minds and knew they stood on the dominant policy questions facing the country.

Their good faith was based upon clarity of policy and self-confidence of stance. It was incumbent on the Liberals to

enter the negotiations in a similar spirit based upon a like-minded stance.

Social Democrats were agreed that democracy had become secretive, centralized and unjust, the system of government archaic, unrepresentative and autocratic.

They were agreed that, when speaking of themselves as Social Democrats, they meant something quite different from the state centralism of the Tories. They meant a commitment to the values of the community, to the mutual loyalties and shared obligations that went with common citizenship.

They were agreed that competitive markets, most often made the best provision of the goods, services and jobs that people needed and wanted; that defence required, not only a commitment to the collective strategy of Nato, but also a retention of a nuclear element in Britain's defence capability (applause).

They were on secure ground. They believed that it was the unique combination of SDP policies — uniquely popular and uniquely relevant — that added up to their distinctive policy stance. On that basis they could negotiate in good faith.

There were some enthusiasts for union who underrated the task. It would not do to dust down *The Time Has Come* and represent it as the credo for a new party (applause).

It was in many ways a worthy document. But it was pedestrian because it was the honest product of an honourable committee compromise. As such its priorities were obscure and its focus blurred. *The Time Has Come* was a helpful launch pad for the new party. But alone it offered insufficient fuel for us to attain orbit.

The Alliance had not faced the civil nuclear power issue clearly. On a subject of such importance their stance must be clear. So must it be throughout. They owed it to themselves and millions whose support they sought.

They owed it to those who would look to them to drive



Mr Robert MacLennan: Bitter attack on "the damage done by the zealots in our midst".

poverty from this country; to those who would look to them to equip young people by their education for a full life and a lifetime in work.

They owed it to those who would look to them to promote the enrichment of the country not in material goods alone, but through the civilizing value of scientific endeavour and artistic achievement.

They also owed it to those who would look to them to root out dark injustices; to ensure that Britain gave a lead not only in the defence of Europe, but also in Europe's wider role as a powerhouse for progress and world development (applause).

There is sense in this party. There is sanity across the Alliance. In combining the two we must be sound. But if there are those who underestimate the diffi-

culties ahead, equally there are others whose deep pessimism seems to me, at the very least, premature.

"Should the SDP continue, we are asked? Whatever the outcome of the negotiations with the Liberals, the principles and passions of social democracy would continue. They were going to remain on offer to the electorate."

"The form of that offer must remain unclear until the SDP votes on the final package. But I am left in no doubt of the force of that offer. Our vehemence is certainly clear, but first let us determine our vehicle."

"As your leader I do not intend to lead any member of this party towards a leap into a limbo. Instead, I intend to seek a determined stride forward for social democracy. In so doing I

shall seek negotiations in good faith."

"I hope that they succeed. I will certainly try my best. I can offer not do more. And when they are complete I shall come back to you and give my honest view about their outcome."

"I cannot predict, as a Social Democrat, that outcome. You must not be prejudiced, as Social Democrats, that outcome."

Since June 11 all of them had had to make too many judgements too soon.

"As your leader I say today: that process must now pause."

"We will go forward calmly and constructively from now on and the decisions that all of us will have to make will be based upon fact not fear; reason not rhetoric; substance not suspicion."

SPYCATCHER MOTION

Council demands end to Government action against newspapers over book

The Council for Social Democracy unanimously passed a motion calling for an end to the actions of the Government against newspapers over Mr Peter Wright's book, *Spycatcher*.

At the end of the debate, which was being televised live, a speaker read a short extract from the book on a point of order. He was ruled out of order by the party president, Mrs Shirley Williams.

Mr William Goodhart, of Kensington, moving the motion, said that the actions of the Government in the *Spycatcher* case, and the decisions of the courts, particularly of the House of Lords, represented the gravest threat to the freedom of the press in the United Kingdom since the war.

One of the questions raised by Mr Wright's book, he said, was how such an embittered disloyal character came to be employed in the Security Service at all.

He believed that the book should not have been published, but it had been and

had sold 200,000 copies in the United States and 75,000 copies in Canada. On the first day of sale at Toronto International Airport, 2,500 copies had been sold.

"It is inconceivable that any practical purpose can now be served by restraining the public in the UK from reading the content of that book."

The Government was quite illogically not even attempting to stop its import. *Spycatcher* could be read by anyone prepared to buy it on mail order from the USA, get a friend to bring it back from a visit there or win it in the Young Social Democrat raffle. "Any damage to the security of this country has long since been done."

The argument that to preserve the injunction might have some deterrent effect was absurd. The deterrent effect would be far too shadowy to outweigh the "real importance of the freedom of the press."

The decision of the House of Lords

showed the utter failure of the highest court in the land to recognize the importance of press freedom (applause).

Mr Martin Lewis, a civil servant from South Shropshire, said that there should be an avenue of effective internal complaint for civil servants.

Under this Government, it was the whistle blower, revealing criminality and impropriety, who became criminal himself. He was hounded and dismissed or dragged through the courts.

There was a need for an internal ombudsman in the Civil Service, a freedom of information act and an end to the rotten Conservative Government.

Mr James Osborne, of Bristol, holding up a copy of *Spycatcher*, said that he would love to read from it because the debate was being broadcast live and the public had a right to know.

But if he were to open the book, itching fingers would reluctantly be pulling the strings because of instructions given to

the broadcast media.

Mr Osborne later, just before the vote, read his brief extract from the book.

Mr David Prior, West Lancashire, said that Government action was making the Conservative Administration, not Britain, look foolish. *Freddie* and a *Polish* weekly had had to be withdrawn from sale in Britain because they quoted *Spycatcher*. The Government continued to dig a big hole for itself.

Rabbi Julia Neuberger, for the national committee, said that the *Spycatcher* episode had made Britain a laughing stock throughout the world.

A freedom of information Bill was needed to ensure the Government's obsession about security.

"Much more sinister is what has been alleged but not tried, that the security services tried to bring down the Wilson Labour Government and were apparently out of control. That is what the Government wishes to pretend is the accusation of a disloyal character, embittered and short of cash."

EDUCATION

Our chance to see if vouchers 'can apply equally to all'

Presenting papers on education policy, Mrs Anne Sofer, of the national committee and chairman of the education policy group, said that this was their attempt to see whether there was anything to make the choice inherent in the voucher system equally applicable to all.

The proposals retained a comprehensive system, a fair system with positive discrimination in favour of the disadvantaged, but also introduced an element of choice.

They were grappling with the problem of how to combine maximum consumer choice with social justice.

Mr George Morris, Plymouth, said that they had to value their teachers and they had to pay them. It was not true that the best would go. Some of the best stayed and suffered economic hardship for the whole of their career and a pittance of a pension at the end. It was a disgrace that this nation did not reward its teachers better.

The conservative attitude of some educationists had restricted change and employers



Mrs Sofer: "Comprehensive system with choice."

said: "Teach them to write and draw a line and we will teach them the rest." These attitudes had restricted the development of natural skills.

Teachers had to face violence in the classroom and it was terrifying. Skilled teachers were

the key, not political interference. John Jordan, Sandwell, said that he had taught in inner cities and outer cities and he was not interested in the divisive policies of Mr Kenneth Baker.

Freedom of choice did not correspond with planning. What happened if a school became popular? Were they going to build loads of temporary classrooms on the playing fields (renewed applause)? Buildings were not like people. They could not be moved around. It took a long time to have a planned programme.

He said that he was not interested in vouchers. They were costly and difficult to administer. County councils which had tried them had abandoned them because of the cost. "I want the cost to go, not an administration, but on text books," he said to cheers.

He added: "I did not join the Social Democratic Party to campaign for similar policies to the

Tories. I am not going on to the doorstep in 1991, in whatever party, to say we have got a voucher system like the Tories but it is more humane. We give more money to the less advantaged."

"What a load of nonsense" (applause).

Mrs Sofer, replying to the debate, said that, on independent schools, they had been attacking the wrong enemy.

The fault lay in the fact that those schools were elitist — escalators for the privileged to the best places in society (applause).

One hundred or two hundred years ago, they were founded with a great mission and zeal in the centre of cities to bring education to the poor very often.

In many of their charters, there was a great burning sense of the need for enlightenment and education. "I wish the independent schools could join with the state sector in serving their mission as bringing education to the whole population."

Mr Robert MacLennan has the appearance of an exceedingly mild man. That is one reason why nobody thought of him as a potential party leader until a few days ago. But his speech to the conference yesterday as the newly elected SDP leader was daring and distinctive.

It was daring in that he has deliberately made a settlement with the Liberals more difficult to reach but more worthwhile if it is achieved.

The Liberals and the more ardent "mergerites" among the Social Democrats would have liked to confine the negotiations essentially to the structure of a new party and a statement of general principles. On those questions it should not be too difficult to find agreement.

But Mr MacLennan has placed policy issues firmly on the table. These will not necessarily be part of the formal negotiations. Perhaps some statement could be prepared on behalf of the two leaders or a group of leading figures in both parties.

Yet, whatever procedure may be adopted, Mr MacLennan is insisting that critical policy differences should be faced.

They cannot, it is true, be finally determined in advance. Any party must have the right to change its policy as it goes along, and a new party cannot simply be told by its potential leaders what its policy is to be before it is even formed.

Mr MacLennan is, however, seeking some indication of what its policy stance would be, some evidence that policy differences can be resolved. He is in effect demanding a test of love before the marriage.

It is no formal test that he

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

has set. In addition to the obvious issues of nuclear defence and economic competition — in effect the SDP approach to the social market, though he did not use that term — he specifically raised the question of nuclear energy on which the two parties have diametrically opposed positions.

That is an issue which could cause the greatest difficulty and which he could easily have avoided at this stage. That he has not done so is an indication that he is determined the discussions should be substantive.

This approach distinguishes Mr MacLennan both from the Owenites and the more zealous "mergerites". Unlike the Owenites, he is willing to negotiate with the Liberals in the hope of agreeing terms for a merger. Unlike the keener "mergerites", he is prepared to put that hope in jeopardy.

He is in fact taking a double risk: that the Liberals might find his terms too stringent and that his own negotiators

might be prepared to settle on terms which he would regard as inadequate. If he is going to be as tough in practice as he sounded yesterday he will have to be closely involved himself in the dialogue with the Liberals.

But I believe he is right to take these risks. A merger would seem to me to be in the best interest of both the Liberals and the SDP if they want to have an impact on British politics — but not a merger at any price.

The electorate would not be much impressed by a new party that seemed to be just an expanded Liberal Party with a different name. To avoid that danger it would need to attract as many Social Democrats as possible and to show that Social Democratic policies would not be submerged.

If Mr MacLennan's terms are met that should help to achieve both those objectives. It would reassure many Social Democrats who are at present deeply sceptical.

It would also encourage the public to take a new party more seriously, because it has been the more hardheaded SDP approach to policy which has done most to win support for the Alliance.

No leader of any British party has taken over in more difficult circumstances than Mr MacLennan for many years. He is trying above all to hold the party together as much as possible — either to lead a newly united party into a merger or to preserve the SDP if there is not sufficient common ground with the Liberals.

He cannot hope to be more than partially successful, but he has made a brave beginning.

Business today

The policy debate, "Looking forward: issues for 1991", continues and concludes today, the final day of the conference. There will also be motions on community charge and devolution, on animal rights and on the social market.

Merged party could survive benefactor's loss

A newly merged Alliance would be able to survive the loss of Mr David Sainsbury, the SDP millionaire benefactor and trustee, Mr William Rodgers, the chairman of the SDP finance committee, said yesterday (our Political Reporters writes).

run financial outlook for his

party came as he said it was acting to deal with a cash crisis. Staff numbers at its headquarters in Cowley Street, London, were being cut by 10 from the present level of 35 and administrative savings were being implemented to reduce spending by about

£250,000 over the next six months.

Mr Rodgers told reporters at the conference that the uncertainties surrounding the SDP's future had led him and the trustees to decide to put it on a "care and maintenance" basis until the merger talks with the Liberals had been finalized.

The SDP needed 200 new

members a week to maintain its strength at its present level of 58,000 and in the present climate there was no prospect of that target being reached. The normal income of about £700,000 a year from individual members and supporters was projected to drop by about half, he said.

Radioactive waste sites are needed 'urgently'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

An increase in low level radioactive waste is adding to the urgency of developing a disposal site for both low and intermediate level nuclear waste, the government's Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee said yesterday.

The unexpected increase in low level waste is accounted for by contaminated soil from building work at the Sellafield nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in Cumbria, the committee says. It has published the volumes of wastes from the nuclear industry.

Professor John Knill, professor of engineering geology at Imperial College, London, and chairman of the committee, said the increase over earlier predictions added to the urgency of developing a disposal site.

He said the contaminated soil came from construction of the new Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant (Thorp), the subject of the long-running Windscale inquiry.

When complete, it will reprocess waste nuclear fuel from Japan, European countries and the pressurized water reactors that the Central Electricity Generating Board is building.

The report also contains the exchange of letters in which the Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Nicholas Ridley, and the Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Disposal Executive (Nirex) are criticized for the way they announced the abandonment of studies into possible nuclear waste burial sites in Bedfordshire, Essex, Humberside and Lincolnshire.

Professor Knill said the decision was purely a financial one. The decision was not based on radiological safety factors, and so appeared to contradict the Department of the Environment policy, according to Professor Knill.

He said his committee was not consulted before the statement was made. His committee was concerned that

Plea to cut levels of 'safe' radiation

By Our Science Editor

Friends of the Earth yesterday called for an immediate five-fold reduction in the permitted exposure to radiation of the general public and workers from discharges by the nuclear industry.

The organization also issued a petition, signed by 150 doctors and scientists, calling on the International Commission for Radiological Protection to revise its list of recommended safety limits.

It is that list which safety advisers to the Government and the industry use in controlling discharges.

The reasons for tougher safety limits are explained in a submission to the commission, which meets next week in Italy to review the latest international research on the long-term effects of persistent doses of low-level radiation.

Since the commission was formed 60 years ago, the recommended safety levels have been reduced to less than a hundredth of the original count.

The standards proposed by scientific advisers to Friends of the Earth are based on the latest conclusions of the continuing study of workers in the nuclear industry and atomic bomb survivors.

The scientists conclude the

current way of estimating risks for 'fatal' cancers from the commission's figures underestimate the risk by between two and five times.

Similarly, the risks of inducing non-fatal cancer are said to be up to 10 times greater than allowed for in the current commission figures.

The details of the research are contained in a book, *Radiation and Health*, also published yesterday.

It says there is an increasing understanding of the sensitivity of unborn babies to radiation and of the threat of genetic damage to the reproductive organs by small doses.

The Friends of the Earth evidence also considers the excess cases of leukaemia among children in places near nuclear sites in the UK.

The submissions suggest that discharges of long-lived substances, such as plutonium and americium, in particular, from Sellafield and Dounreay, cause leukaemia during fetal life more often than has been recognized.

The proposals call on the nuclear industry to replace the principle 'as low as reasonably achievable' with 'as low as technically achievable' when designing and constructing discharge plant.

Dig gives clues to an early monastic life

Excavations into a long-forgotten graveyard are providing a glimpse of monastic life in twelfth century Britain.

The archaeologists have discovered that a life of prayer could be hard for the religious brethren.

One of the skeletons found showed signs of arthritis in the knee, explained by Mr Christopher Currie, in charge of the dig, as 'hardly surprising for a monk who spends most of his life in a cold church on his knees'.

Diggers at the site near Portsmouth of what used to be Southwick Priory, founded by Anglo-Saxon monks in the early part of the twelfth century, found the cemetery while excavating old fishponds.

Excavation of the fishponds shows a medieval dam was constructed around a timber superstructure - the first time proof has been found that twelfth century builders used that method. Fresh fish would have been kept in the ponds for eating and they could be drained and the fish retrieved.

Archaeology, page 12

Britain censured over acid rain pact

By Andrew Morgan

Environmental groups condemned the Government last night for not signing the "30 per cent Protocol", an international agreement to combat acid rain which takes effect today.

Twenty-one countries, all party to the Geneva Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution, have agreed to reduce their emissions of sulphur dioxide, the chief cause of acid rain, by 30 per cent on 1980 levels.

Britain, a signatory to the convention, has refused to sign the protocol, saying it is aiming for a reduction but will not be legally bound to it.

Britain has agreed to a £600 million desulphurization project at three power stations, but the equipment will not be operational for several years.

The World Wildlife Fund said yesterday that the UK was still considered the greatest polluter of Norway and The Netherlands.

Mr Andrew Kerr, Greenpeace's acid rain campaigner, has written to Lord Belstead, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, saying that the plan to clean up three power stations is like "applying a band aid to a gangrenous wound".



Matthew Paylor, aged eight, of Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, standing proudly in front of the First World War bandstand he helped to save. When he heard that a car park was to replace it in his local park, he wrote to the Department of the Environment, pleading for its retention. A letter came back telling him the bandstand was a listed building and was safe.

Advice for the elderly on use of alcohol

By Kerry Gill

An information booklet advising elderly people on alcohol use and abuse was published yesterday.

Alcohol and Older People, published jointly by the Scottish Council on Alcohol, and Age Concern Scotland, is also aimed at those caring for them.

It says elderly men should consume no more than two or three units of alcohol two or three times a week. Women should drink no more than half that amount. A unit of alcohol is a half-pint of beer or a single public house measure of spirits.

The deputy director of the Scottish Council on Alcohol, Mrs Mary Wilson, said: "There is evidence that alcohol in moderation can reduce the risks of heart disease and other diseases to some extent. Unlike other drugs, such as tobacco, it cannot be regarded as being harmful in itself."

Dr Bruce Risson, consultant psychiatrist at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, said: "Bereavement, loneliness and poor health can lead to seeking comfort in alcohol. The bodies of elderly people are less able to cope with the effects of alcohol. The combination of alcohol and prescribed medicines can be very dangerous."

Governor speaks of Barlinnie tenderness

The new governor of Barlinnie prison, Glasgow, spoke yesterday of "compassion and tenderness" shown by staff towards prisoners. After a month in charge of one of Scotland's toughest jails, Mr Alan Walker said: "So far as I'm concerned our job is to contain prisoners, clean them up where necessary, feed them up, look after them and show compassion and tenderness."

Last January 15 prisoners held three prison officers hostage for five days.

Mr Walker said Barlinnie's role was changing. With more space being created at Shotts new prison in Lanarkshire and Glenochil prison, Barlinnie would revert to its role as a local prison for those serving 18 months or less.

It would also cater for remand prisoners awaiting trial or sentence and a small number of long-term prisoners. The present prison population was 1,050 although its capacity was set at 993.

One prisoner who was cleaning E Hall had no doubt things had improved. Stephen, from Johnstone, said: "Until quite recently we didn't have open visits. You were separated by glass screens. That's made a big difference. It has eased tension. Now you can hold hands and hold your kids."

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An investment in National Savings Income Bonds will give you the money you need to enjoy life, month in, month out.

The interest rate on Income Bonds is 10.5% p.a. You'll receive your income monthly and in full, because we don't deduct tax at source.

The interest is credited direct to your bank or building society account on the 5th of each month, or we can send it direct to your home.

Either way it means some welcome money coming in regularly.

No need to touch your capital.

You get your monthly income without needing to touch your capital.

Interest is calculated on a day-to-day basis. It is paid in full and is subject to tax if you are a taxpayer. The rate paid may change from time to time, to keep it competitive.

Getting your money out.

You can have your bonds repaid at 3 months' notice. And there will be no loss of

interest if you've held your bonds for a year or more. (For the full details of repayment, see paragraph 6 of the prospectus.)

This is what 10.5% p.a. rate earns you every month					
INVESTMENT	AN MONTHLY INCOME	INVESTMENT	AN MONTHLY INCOME	INVESTMENT	AN MONTHLY INCOME
£2,000	£17.50	£8,000	£70.00	£18,000	£157.50
£5,000	£43.75	£10,000	£87.50	£20,000	£175.00
£6,000	£52.50	£13,000	£113.75	£25,000	£218.75
£7,000	£61.25	£15,000	£131.25	£100,000	£875.00

(Each additional £1,000 invested at the rate produces an average of £8.75 per month - £105 per year. Maximum holding £100,000.)

Invest here and now.

You can be sure your investment will always provide a worthwhile monthly income. All you have to do is complete the coupon and send it with your cheque (payable to 'National Savings') to NSIB, Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool FY3 9YP.

Or ask for an application form at your post office. The minimum purchase for new investors is £2,000; if you already have a bond it is £1,000.

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To NSIB, Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool, FY3 9YP

1 I/we accept the terms of the Prospectus and apply for a Bond to the value of: £ ,000 Initial minimum of £2,000 and multiples of £1,000 to a maximum of £100,000

2 All for my/our use

Address: Postcode:

Name of Trust (if applicable) Date of Birth (essential if under 7)

NAME AND ADDRESS FOR DEPOSIT OF INVESTMENT CERTIFICATE (if different from above). 104417

Name: Address: Postcode:

If you already have a National Savings Income Bond, insert Register No.

4 Enter full account details for interest to be paid direct to a Bank/Building Society or National Savings Bank Account, or name and address only if you prefer crossed warrants by post.

Bank: Building Society: Name:

Address: Postcode:

A/c/Roll No. A/c Name(s)

5 Signature(s) Date:

Signature(s) holding all holders must sign

PROSPECTUS 30 May 1986

1 The Director of Savings is authorised by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to receive and further reduce applications for National Savings Income Bonds ("Bonds").

2 The Bonds are a Government security, issued under the National Loans Act 1968. They are registered in the National Savings Stock Register and are subject to the Regulations relating to the National Savings Stock Register for the time being in force, so far as they are applicable. The principal and interest on the Bonds will be a charge on the National Loans Fund.

3.1 Subject to a minimum initial purchase of £2,000 (see paragraph 4.1) a Bond may be purchased for £2,000 or a multiple of that sum. Payment in full must be made at the time of application. The date of purchase will be for all purposes the date of receipt of the certificate, with a completed application form, at the Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool, or at any other place as the Director of Savings may specify.

3.2 An investment certificate, bearing the date of purchase, will be issued in respect of each purchase.

4.1 No person may hold, either solely or jointly with any other person, less than £2,000 or more than £100,000 of Bonds. Bonds purchased from a deceased holder will not count towards the permitted maximum.

4.2 The Treasury may vary the maximum holding limits and the minimum purchase limits from time to time, upon giving notice. No such variation will prejudice any right under the prospectus acquired by a Bondholder immediately before the variation in respect of a Bond then held by him.

5.1 Interest will be calculated on a day-to-day basis from the date of purchase at a rate determined by the Treasury ("the Treasury rate").

5.2 Interest will be payable on the 5th day of each month. The Director of Savings may defer payment of accrued interest if necessary due to respect of a Bond when the period of six weeks following the date of purchase until the next interest date following the end of that period.

5.3 In respect of the Bonds held, by reason of paragraph 5.1, earned less interest than the total already paid in respect of the Bond under paragraph 5.2 the balance will be deducted from the sum to be repaid. Any interest earned on the Bond and not already paid before repayment will be added to the sum to be repaid. If, in the case of repayment under paragraph 6.2, it is not practicable to pay an interest payment from being made after the repayment date, the amount of that interest payment will be deducted from the sum to be repaid.

5.4 The Treasury may from time to time vary the Treasury rate upon giving notice.

5.5 The Treasury may from time to time vary the interest at and dates on which interest is payable, upon giving notice, and it is to be deemed that any variation will be made in accordance with the Treasury rate upon giving notice.

5.6 Interest on a Bond will be paid without deduction of Income Tax, but it is subject to Income Tax and must be included in any return of income made to the Inland Revenue.

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Please Note: Interest is normal for each day at 1/250th of the annual rate (and at 1/250th of the annual rate for each day in a leap year). The rate does not form part of the prospectus.

REPAYMENT

6.1 A Bondholder may obtain repayment of a Bond at any time before redemption upon giving 3 calendar months' notice. The Bond will earn interest at the Treasury rate from the date of purchase up to the date of redemption.

6.2 Where an application for repayment of a Bond is made after the death of the holder or sole surviving registered holder or fixed period of notice is required and the Bond will earn interest at the Treasury rate from the date of purchase up to the date of redemption, whether or not repayment occurs before the first anniversary of the purchase.

6.3 Any application for repayment of a Bond must be made in writing to the Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool, and accompanied by the investment certificate. The period of notice given by the Bondholder will be calculated from the date on which the application is received in the Bonds and Stock Office.

6.4 Application may be made for repayment of part of a Bond in an amount of £1,000 or a multiple of that sum provided that the holding of Bonds remaining after the part repayment is not less than the minimum holding limit as specified in paragraph 4.1 as varied from time to time under paragraph 4.2. The preceding sub-paragraphs will apply to the part repaid as to a whole Bond.

6.5 The remaining balance will have the same date of purchase and the same interest dates as were applicable to the original Bond immediately prior to repayment.

6.6 Repayment will be made by cheque or by direct transfer to a National Savings Bank account or by crossed warrant sent by post.

6.7 Interest will be payable direct to a National Savings Bank or other bank or building society account or by crossed warrant sent by post. A Bondholder may designate one account or method of payment to apply to any future holding of Bonds at any time. Capital will be repaidable direct to a National Savings Bank account or by crossed warrant sent by post.

6.8 A Bond held by a minor under the age of seven years, either solely or jointly with any other person, will not be repaid, except with the consent of the Director of Savings.

6.9 Bonds will not be transferable except with the consent of the Director of Savings. Transfer of a Bond or part of a Bond will be allowed on an amount of £1,000 or a multiple of that sum and will not be allowed if the holding of the transferee or transferees would thereby be outside the holding limits imposed by paragraph 4.1 as varied from time to time under paragraph 4.2. The Director of Savings will normally give consent in the case of, for example, devolution of Bonds on the death of a holder but not to any proposed transfer which is by way of sale or for any consideration.

6.10 The Treasury will give any notice required under paragraph 4.2.5.4.5.5 or 11 of the prospectus in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes or in any other manner which they think fit. If notice is given otherwise than in the Gazette it will be as soon as it is reasonably possible thereafter to be recorded in them.

6.11 Each Bond may be held for a guaranteed period of 10 years from the first interest date after the date of purchase. Thereafter, interest will continue to be payable under the terms of the prospectus until the redemption of the Bond. The Bond will be redeemed at par either at the end of the guaranteed period or on any interest date thereafter, in either case upon the giving of six months' notice by the Treasury. The Director of Savings will write to the Bondholder before redemption, at the last recorded address for his Bondholding, informing him of the date of the redemption and the amount to be repaid.

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INCOME BONDS

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NATIONAL SAVINGS

WORLD SUMMARY

Kanak in Paris protest march

Paris — The main separatist organization in New Caledonia, the Kanak National Socialist Liberation Front, held a march in Paris yesterday to protest against France's decision to hold a referendum on the future of its colony in the Pacific Ocean on September 13 (Susan MacDonald writes).

The march in Paris followed demonstrations in the New Caledonian capital, Noumea, over the past few days by the separatists. Tension has been mounting there since the brutal tactics allegedly used by police 10 days ago in breaking up a banned march.

The French Prime Minister, M. Jacques Chirac, has also entered the fray, hitting out at what he considers to be Australian and New Zealand interference on the eve of the vote. An Australian diplomat in Noumea has been declared *persona non grata* by the French.

Airport protest

Jerusalem — Police used water cannon yesterday to remove several hundred aircraft workers demonstrating on one of the main runways at Ben-Gurion Airport in their campaign against the Cabinet decision to axe the Lavi fighter (David Bernstein writes).

Several flights were disrupted, and many passengers again missed flights as demonstrating workers blocked main junctions for the second successive day.

The Finance Minister, Mr. Moshe Nissim — the only Likud minister to vote with Labour against the Lavi last Sunday — was physically molested by demonstrators.

Titanic discovery

Paris — The name "Titanic" has been uncovered on the port side of the vessel by the French exploration team which has been working inside the wreck using a mini submarine (Susan MacDonald writes).

The team worked for four hours to clear the encrusted hull, and found the name with the "a" missing. Members also brought more objects to the surface.

The expedition, which is financed by a British company, has run into controversy because of plans to show the objects on television and in world-wide exhibitions before they go on permanent display.

Colonel kidnapped

Santiago — Colonel Carlos Carreño of the Chilean Army, who works at the national weapons factory, was kidnapped on leaving home here yesterday in an explosive start to September, traditionally a month of conflict with the anniversaries of both the last democratic elections and the coup which ended Chilean democracy (Lake Sagaris writes).

The colonel was approached by armed men posing as water workers and bundled into a van; military authorities said that at least ten men were involved. A policeman was injured in a gun-battle with the escaping kidnappers.

Swim for asylum

Cairo (Reuters) — Three Iranian stayaways who dived into the Suez Canal from their Turkish ship are in police custody in Port Said. The Cairo evening paper *el-Messa* said that they had aboard the ship undetected at the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas and later told the captain that they wanted asylum in France.

The three struggled to shore helped by life-jackets which the crew hurled into the waterway after they had jumped in.

Latvian jailed

Moscow (Reuters) — A man has been jailed for 15 days and five other people fined after demonstrations by a crowd of 2,000 in Riga, capital of Soviet Latvia, marked the anniversary of the 1939 Nazi-Soviet pact. *Pravda* said yesterday.

Edmund Rakhko, aged 24, a factory worker, was jailed after returning drunk to the Monument to Freedom in Riga on August 24, the day after the protests. He had earlier been warned for insulting a policeman.

Peron tomb charges

Buenos Aires (Reuters) — An Argentine judge has arraigned five people in connection with the amputation and attempted ransom of the late President Peron's hands, a court secretary said yesterday. Judge Jaime Far Suau heard testimony from them in secret session, and neither their names nor the charges were made public.

Grave-robbers earlier this year broke into Peron's tomb in Chacarita cemetery in western Buenos Aires and cut both hands from the embalmed corpse. In July they demanded an \$5-million ransom from the leaders of the Peronist party.

California plans emergency legal action on Aids

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles

In a desperate effort to try to curb the growing Aids plague, California, the most populous state in the United States, could begin its own programme of testing experimental drugs within weeks if a new emergency Bill is approved this week.

Complaining that the US Food and Drug Administration is dragging its feet in giving its blessing to the experimental anti-Aids drugs, California's Attorney-General, Mr. John van de Kamp, has taken the unusual step of sponsoring the new law by noting: "This Bill is the State of

California's announcement that, in the face of an extraordinary medical emergency, business as usual is not enough."

The state's chief law enforcement officer added that the measure "will echo like a thunderbolt... in the corridors of the federal medical bureaucracy."

If the measure is approved, California will be able to begin tests, possibly within weeks, on the first of thousands of volunteers who have Aids or who have been tested positive for the Aids virus.

Mr van de Kamp said the measure would enable pharmaceutical com-

panies to bypass the FDA as well as offer some hope to Aids patients, many of whom are crossing the border into Mexico to seek drugs and treatment.

In Washington, the FDA denied that it has moved too slowly in efforts to test Aids drugs.

The measure, which has won the support of leading lawmakers in California, is expected to be approved next week before the legislative adjourns.

However, Mr. Neil Schramm, the former head of the Los Angeles Aids task force, has said that even if the

Bill is passed it may not be possible to produce a vaccine or cure any faster, even if California establishes its own testing procedures.

"Everybody is frustrated by the slowness of research," he said, "but unfortunately that is part of the problem with quality research. No amount of rushing things can make good research happen faster."

The Governor of California, Mr. George Deukmajian, has threatened to veto another Aids Bill that would require schools in California to give Aids prevention education to junior and senior high school students. Republican lawmakers claim the law

would give students lessons in homosexual sex.

● WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has identified 3,035 military personnel and 1,766 recruit applicants as carriers of the Aids virus out of more than three million tested, according to the latest statistics (AP reports). Military personnel with the virus are allowed to remain in the service provided they show no signs of the disease itself.

● SEOUL: South Korea said yesterday that it would test some 12,000 prostitutes for Aids after news that a youth who regularly visited a red-light district in the capital had contracted the virus (AFP reports).

Pope meets US Jewish leaders for 'warm' talks

From Roger Boyes, Rome

The Pope yesterday broke new ground in the tormented relationship between the Catholic and Jewish faiths by holding lengthy talks with rabbis and other Jewish leaders from the United States.

The meeting, at the Pope's summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, outside Rome, spanned such controversial issues as the recent papal audience for President Waldheim of Austria, charges of anti-Semitism and Catholic indifference to the Holocaust, but concentrated above all on

is already likely to be a noisy affair with feminists, the pro-abortion lobby, homosexuals and married priests all wanting to argue their case.

"This is the first time, as far as anyone knows, that this kind of discussion between representatives of the Jews and the supreme head of the Roman Catholic Church is taking place in this sort of a setting," said Mr. Henry Siegman, who is executive director of the American Jewish Congress.

"The Pope is involving himself in the dialogue — it's a dramatic departure and it raises the relations with Jews and Judaism to a level it was never able to assume before."

Yesterday's talks were the climax of a summer's diplomacy. After the US church hierarchy informed the Vatican about the scope of Jewish discontent, the Pope sent a letter to Archbishop Joseph May, the president of the National Bishops' Conference, underlining his deep sympathy with the Jewish lot.

This letter was then leaked and made possible a meeting on Monday between Jewish leaders and two key figures in the Vatican. That prepared the ground for yesterday's audience.

The Jewish leaders later described the conversation with the Pope as "warm, promising and extremely moving".

At least some of their demands will be met: a Catholic document is to be drawn up on the Holocaust to refute charges that the Catholic Church has been turning a blind eye to the wartime extermination.

● VIENNA: An international commission of military historians, which is to examine documents concerning President Waldheim's wartime career, met in Vienna for the first time yesterday (Richard Bassett writes).

the Jewish demand for full diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel.

The meeting was an extraordinary event in Catholic-Jewish relations. Although the 1965 Vatican document *Nostra Aetate* cleared some of the air (deploring anti-Semitism), the memory of centuries of enmity lingers on.

Since the Pope's audience in June with Dr. Waldheim — who has been accused of participating in, or knowledge of, war crimes — the Jewish pressure for real dialogue has been particularly strong.

For the first time Jewish lobbyists have considerable leverage because the Pope is due to visit the United States next week. One of his first encounters, on September 11 in Miami, is scheduled to be with Jewish representatives.

Yesterday's meeting at Castel Gandolfo has probably saved the United States visit from an additional scandal. It

Bells peal on Elba as hostages go free



The wife and son of one of the 28 hostages in the Elba jail siege being escorted by Carabinieri into the prison yesterday after the peaceful surrender of the hostage-takers, six convicted murderers led by the neo-Fascist Mario Tuti.

Italian prison siege ends peacefully

From Our Own Correspondent, Rome

Italy's longest prison siege ended peacefully and without casualties on Elba yesterday, the news heralded by the pealing of church bells across the sleepy island.

After hours of negotiation with lawyers, six convicted murderers, led by the neo-Fascist Mario Tuti, surrendered to the authorities, so ending the seven-day ordeal of their 28 hostages. The authorities appear to have won the day without making any important concessions to the six.

President Cossiga immediately rang to congratulate the two main negotiators, the Director-General of Prisons, Signor Nicola Amato, and the Justice Minister, Signor Giuliano Vassalli.

The release of the hostages has provided a welcome boost for the infant Government of Signor Giovanni Goria, which has shown itself capable of

sitting out a crisis. It also provides some useful lessons for other countries on how to handle similar sieges.

From the beginning, Tuti and his fellow convicts had emphasized that they had nothing to lose since they were all serving life sentences with little prospect of parole.

Their original plan was to escape on a fast day, August 25, when there was an unusually relaxed atmosphere in the cliff-top maximum security jail outside Porto Azzurro. Two guns, a bayonet and an iron pick were smuggled in: the six then seized warders, secured 10 million lire (about \$2,000) from the prison bank, and demanded that the prison director's bulletproof car take them to the coast.

But a warder raised the alarm and the convicts fled to the prison infirmary, rounding up hostages on the way. There

they stayed until their surrender yesterday morning.

When two hostages faintly during the siege, the convicts made their intentions clear by firing shots close to their prostrate figures. Later, some hostages were fastened to the bars at prison windows, their arms outstretched. Alcohol was sprinkled around the infirmary and the convicts threatened to burn the hostages alive, one at a time.

The Government refused to negotiate any deal that broke the law, effectively refusing to assist the convicts to escape. But it tempered its refusal by appealing to the intelligence of the six and by using an unusual form of indirect negotiation — over national television.

When the gang demanded a helicopter, the Government did not reply. But on the same day state television — the

kidnappers watched all news bulletins — showed clearly that there was no place for the helicopter to land on the prison premises and explained that helicopters had a limited range. The point was not lost on the convicts.

The four lawyers sent into the prison on Monday reinforced the point that the Government would not bend the law in making concessions but that it might be possible to grant amnesties for the crime of hostage-taking. After seven stirring days, that proved to be enough for the criminals.

Some key questions — who smuggled the weapons into jail, who was to pick the convicts up by motor launch — remain to be answered and they reflect, not for the first time, the chaotic state of the Italian prison system.

An inquiry is to be opened later this month.

Older leaders face dismissal at China's party congress

From Robert Gries, Peking

It was the strongest indication yet from the Government that Mr. Deng Xiaoping, China's senior leader, means to replace older men who are opposed to his reforms.

Principal opponents of the Deng reforms include Mr. Peng Zhen, the chairman of the National People's Congress, and Mr. Chen Yun, the architect of China's planned economy. The congress, which is to be convened on October 25, "will further promote the process of rejuvenating the party's core of leadership," the commentary said.

Mr. Deng has said he would like to step down from active public life at the congress, and that some of his contemporaries should do likewise. But analysts expect him to retain control of the Government.

Mr. Deng's reforms have met with considerable opposition from party traditionalists who fear that their authority will be eroded. Since widespread student demonstrations in support of Western-style democracy swept China in December and January, the conservative backlash has intensified.

In January Mr. Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the Communist Party and an ally of Mr. Deng, was forced to resign from his post. Since then six prominent liberal intellectuals have been expelled from the party. In addition, a campaign against Western influences flourished for several months this year.

The commentary noted these trends: "The rejuvenation process has also met with obstacles. Nevertheless, more and more people have come to realize that the process is inevitable if the party's executive organization as well as the state political system are to be invigorated, and ossified attitudes avoided."

Despite the changes, the commentary said, that there would still be people "over 60" in the party.

Armed police raid Delhi newspaper

Delhi (Reuters) — Scores of armed police entered the offices of the *Indian Express* yesterday, where demonstrators were protesting against a raid on the newspaper earlier in the day by revenue officials.

A correspondent inside the building said that police arrived armed with guns and tear gas after about 100 members of the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party entered the lobby chanting "Down with Rajiv Gandhi".

Revenue officers also swooped on 11 other *Express* offices across the country. The *Express* editor, Mr. Arun Shourie, described the raids as the worst threat to press freedom since the state of emergency ordered by Mrs. Indira Gandhi in 1977.

The *Express*, which has a daily circulation of 650,000 nationwide, is India's most widely-read English daily, has consistently campaigned against alleged government corruption and the hoarding

of wealth overseas by prominent Indians.

Official sources said the raids were to seek evidence of offences against the foreign exchange regulation act, income and wealth tax rules and import regulations.

Iraqi jets hit three Iranian ships

From Robert Fisk, Dubai

Headless of the condemnation of the British and other Western governments, Iraq continued its assault on Iranian shipping in the Gulf yesterday, sending its Air Force on raids against at least three Iranian oil tankers, one of which was last night reported to be burning out of control near the Strait of Hormuz.

The Iraqis had by dusk failed to retaliate, although Tehran Radio said that Iranian jets had been involved in a dogfight over the Gulf, shooting down an Iraqi aircraft and damaging another.

Shipping agencies in the Arab Gulf states confirmed before midnight that two Iranian ships had been hit by Iraqi missiles during the day, making further Iranian retaliation after Monday's attack on a Kuwaiti container vessel virtually inevitable.

The Iraqis were making no attempt to hide either the extent or severity of their raids

against Iranian targets, apparently taking heart from the unanimous condemnation of Iran by the League of Arab Nations, and from the gentleness of America's criticism of the air strikes ordered by Baghdad. Indeed, the US Government's most recent condemnation of Iran — as strident as any that followed the Iraqi attack on the American

Washington — An American navy ship rescued an Iraqi pilot from a raft in the Gulf on Monday, after he had been adrift for two days when his fighter was shot down (Michael Binyon writes). The pilot believes he was hit by an Iranian missile. He had taken part in raids on Iranian targets. The Pentagon announced yesterday that the unidentified pilot was in good condition. He was spotted south of the Iranian island of Far.

can frigate Stark earlier this year — may be encouraging the Iraqis to continue their fierce new offensive.

Obviously, the latest assault was mounted as a punishment for Iran's "rejection" of the UN Security Council's ceasefire resolution, even though Iran has actually asked for changes in the resolution rather than rejected it.

But Baghdad Radio yes-

terday made it clear that other worries were troubling the Iraqi leadership, principal among them the increased Iranian oil exports which are allowing Tehran a far larger budget for arms purchases.

Iraq, the radio announced, would "not give Iran another chance to play, manoeuvre and exploit opportunities to continue exporting its oil to Western countries."

Whether this silence was ominous or merely contemplative — for the Tehran military authorities are still arguing about the correct response to Iraq's renewal of the Gulf who believe Arab shipping can escape further attack.

Iranian oil tankers are now under attack at Kharg Island and shipping agencies in the Gulf say that masters will only approach the island's oil terminal when they can be sure that loading will start immediately, thus reducing the time they are tied up and vulnerable to Iraqi air attack.

Iraq has meanwhile been continuing its air raids against ground targets inside Iran.

The latest of these was said to include a sugar plant and an oil installation.

Six American warships and two US-flagged Kuwaiti tankers continued their own slow voyage up the Gulf yesterday and were expected to reach the Kuwaiti offshore oil loading terminal around dusk.

It has been allowed that opportunity through the efforts of China, Iran's main arms supplier, and the Soviet Union, which has taken advantage of the US posture to woo Tehran with the hope that it can find a way to be the superpower able to forge peace in the Gulf.

Señor Pérez de Cuellar has given Iran an unofficial deadline of Friday to respond definitively to the council demand and at that time it is believed that the Soviet Union will no longer be able to shield Iran from enforcement measures without lending itself open to criticism from Arab Gulf countries, which it is also trying to court.

Diplomats say that it is all but unthinkable that at some point Moscow would not agree to sanctions.

Blacks are hanged in Pretoria

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Heavily armed police surrounded a building in Johannesburg as 500 people gathered yesterday to mourn two black men hanged earlier in the day for the murder of a black township councillor and members of his family.

The executions, at Pretoria Central Prison, were carried out in spite of international appeals to President Botha for clemency on the grounds that the condemned men were political activists.

The memorial service for the two, Moses Jantjies, aged 21, and Wellington Mielies, aged 24, was organized by the radical South African Youth Congress at Khosho House, headquarters of the South African Church Council and other anti-apartheid organizations.

Police armed with shotguns and heavy, 4 ft-long plastic sjamboks surrounded the building for more than two hours, blocking access streets. A police spokesman warned the media to keep away. "They will not be allowed to go into the area. They cannot take photos or be in the area under the emergency regulations," he said.

As people left the building, scuffles broke out nearby and six people were said to have been injured when the police unleashed their dogs.

Jantjies and Mielies were sentenced for the murders, near Uitenhage in the eastern Cape, of councillor Mr. Ben Kinkini, and his family in March 1985. Mr. Kinkini was "necklaced" — burnt to death with a petrol-filled tyre round his neck his daughter, Silu, bo, aged 20, had both arms and a leg hacked off, and his son, Eric, was found with his genitals cut off and his skull crushed. They had been accused by radicals of collaborating with "the system".



Mr. Chen: Opponent of his leader's reform plans.

Mr. Peng: Chairman of the National People's Congress.

سدا عا لاصلي

Philippines coup attempt

Army chief claims rebellion hurt war on guerrillas

From Michael Hamlyn, Manila

The Philippines Army chief yesterday moved to counter criticism of himself from both the right and left wings of public opinion by addressing a long press conference in the somewhat reduced circumstances of the officers' club at Camp Aguinaldo in a suburb of the capital, Manila.

General Fidel Ramos spoke in a ground floor restaurant of the club a few yards from the charred shell of his general headquarters building which was burned by rebel soldiers during last Friday's attempt to overthrow President Aquino's Government.

General Ramos tried to sap right-wing support for the rebel leader, Colonel Gregorio Honasan, by saying that his action had weakened the ability of the Army to fight the insurgency by the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army.

"Aside from causing death and injury to hundreds of Filipinos," he said, "Honasan has unwittingly given aid and comfort to the communist terrorists who even now have openly called for an intensification of their attacks."

He also made it clear that he was urging further spending on improving pay and conditions for soldiers, and on upgrading equipment.

At the same time, he indicated that there was unlikely to be a death penalty for the coup leaders, and that the rank and file of the mutineers "who were following the instructions of their officers, whether

legal or illegal..." would be leniently dealt with.

But General Ramos insisted that those responsible for leading the coup would be dealt with severely under the law. He said that the present law against rebellion was punishable only by six to 12 years imprisonment. "That is a very light punishment."

Instead, he suggested that the Army's Articles of War could be used against the

Manila - Cardinal Jaime Sin said yesterday that only God's miracle had saved President Aquino from being overthrown in last week's army rebellion (Reuter reports). Referring to corruption in the ousted Marcos government, Cardinal Sin said: "We thought it would end with the fleeing of the ousted dictator, Ali Baha, yet there are still 40 thieves around." He said this was the reason there had been five attempted coups in 18 months.

plotter, Murthy, he said, had been "punishable" by death under the articles, but now that the death penalty had been abolished under the Constitution, life imprisonment could be substituted.

General Ramos said that Colonel Honasan's declared intention to establish a military junta would be crushed, although he declined to discuss publicly the details of the hunt for the ringleaders who are still at large. He confirmed that in the course of interviewing one captured plotter he

established that the ringleaders had intended to set up such a junta to take power in the country.

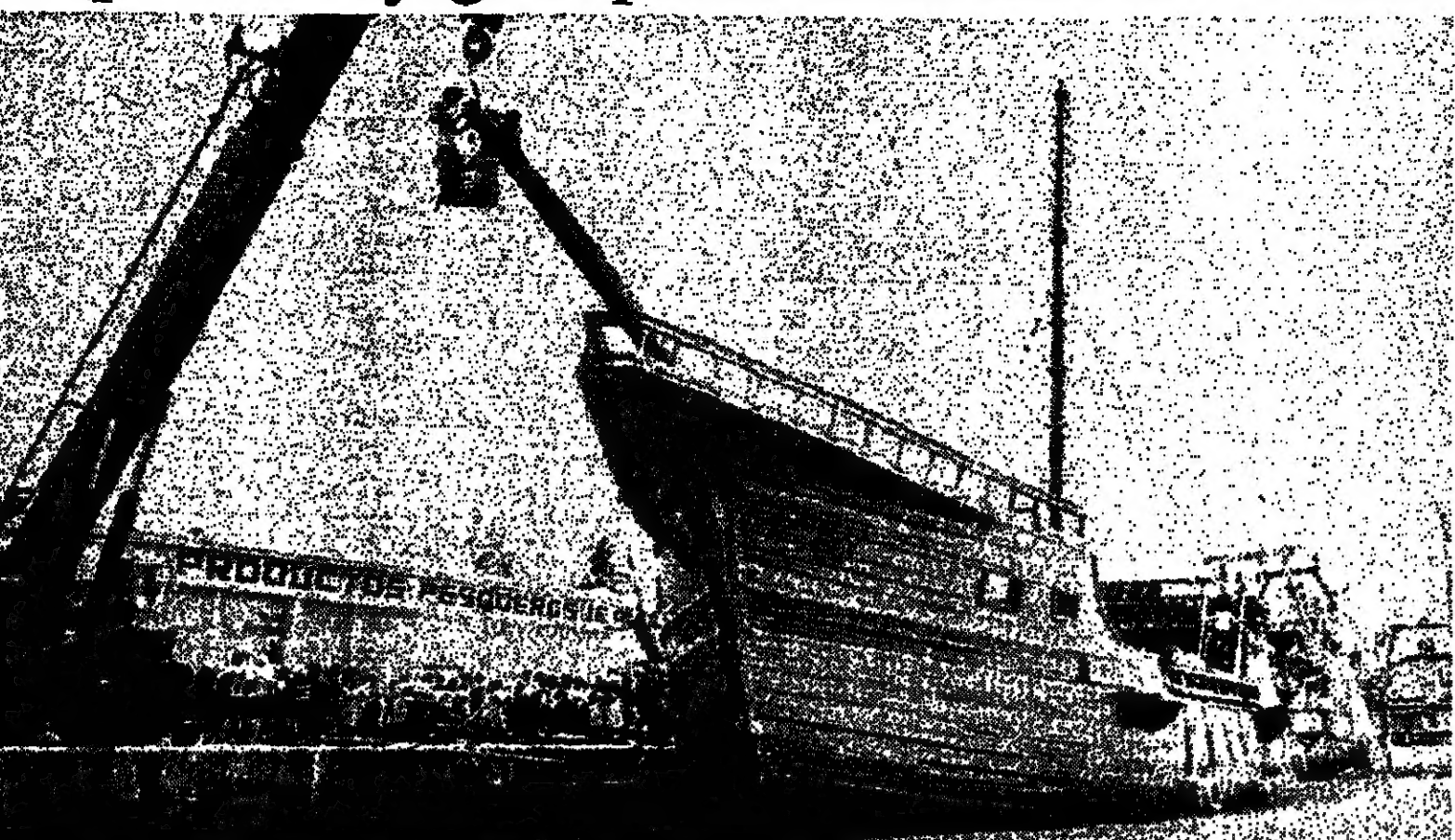
The public announcement of the establishment of a junta was made after the defeat of the coup, by a manifesto circulated to correspondents which purported to come from "The Ruling Junta", at its headquarters in Central Luzon - the island on which Manila stands.

The manifesto - labelled "Memorandum number one" - listed a series of right-wing grievances against the Aquino Government, and was backed up by telephone calls to local newspapers by a voice identifying itself only as "Brother Louie". He said a refusal to negotiate would bring a state of civil war. "And if this happens," he said, "hostilities will escalate."

The insurgency by the communist guerrillas continued unabated after the coup, with reports coming in of power lines having been sabotaged and of the blowing up of an oil Shell refinery pipeline.

Ramos blamed Colonel Rodolfo Aguinaldo, a senior officer sacked for supporting the coup attempt, openly defied the Government yesterday by calling for the resignation of General Ramos (Reuter reports). Only General Ramos's dismissal would avoid future coup attempts against President Aquino, he said. He blamed General Ramos for deep divisions in the armed forces.

Captain's voyage of peace from the New World



Captain Vital Alsar, left, waiting on the bridge of his vessel, the Marigalante, as craftsmen in Mexico, above, work to get her ready for a round-the-world voyage. A send-off planned for the Marigalante, a replica of Christopher Columbus's ship, has had to be postponed.

Work delays send-off for replica of Columbus ship

Veracruz, Mexico (AP) - A big send-off for the Marigalante, a replica of the 15th-century ship, the Santa Maria, at the start of her voyage to Europe, was postponed yesterday while work continued to complete her.

Captain Vital Alsar, the project's creator and the ship's master, said most of the work still to be done on the Marigalante was technical, and included finishing the electrical system.

He said that about 100 carpenters and electricians had been working with the ship's crew of 17 for the past few weeks to get the vessel ready for the scheduled party in Veracruz, on the Gulf of Mexico. He added that no new date had been set for the ship's sailing. Estimates for completion ranged from a few days to a few more weeks.

Captain Alsar has previously said that he hopes the Marigalante's voyage will create a new bridge of understanding between the Americas and Spain. The ship takes its name from the original name of the Santa Maria, the vessel Christopher Columbus sailed to the New World.

Captain Alsar, an adventurer aged 53, who has lived in Veracruz for 30 years, says he once spent 483 days with a crew floating from Ecuador to Australia on a balsa raft. He has founded two museums, both called the Sea, Man and Peace.

"It is a romantic example of peace combined with a romantic aesthetic that I believe is being lost in the world," he

said recently. He said the idea of building a replica, with an eye to the 500th anniversary of Columbus's voyage, originated about eight years ago.

With engineers from his native Spain, he designed the 108 ft ship using more than 30 kinds of tropical woods. Legal requirements demand that the ship be fitted with navigational equipment and an auxiliary engine. The Marigalante also has a children's museum.

Captain Alsar estimates the cost of the project at more than \$1 million. Much of the finance has come from the trust fund called Sea, Man and Peace. The Mexican Government has also made a contribution. The ship is scheduled to stop in Miami before going on to Spain, which Captain Alsar hopes to reach this autumn.

Penang court sends mother to gallows on drug charges

Penang (Reuter) - A Malaysian court yesterday sentenced a New Zealand mother to hang for heroin trafficking and her son to life in jail for drug possession. Their lawyer said he would appeal against the convictions and sentences.

"She needs treatment and rehabilitation rather than death," Mr Karpal Singh told Penang's High Court after Justice Muhammad Dzaidin Abdullah sentenced Lorraine Phyllis Cohen, aged 44, to hang for heroin trafficking. Her 20-year-old son, Aaron Shelton, was sentenced to life imprisonment and six strokes of the cane for possession of heroin for his own use.

Announcing that Cohen would hang, the judge said: "The quantity of heroin speaks for itself. On the bal-

ance of probability the first accused failed to show that it was for personal consumption. The law makes no excuse for being an addict."

Cohen and her son were charged with trafficking in 4.97 and 1.22 ounces of heroin respectively. They were arrested at Penang in February 1985. Both have said they were drug addicts and had the heroin for their own use.

On Shelton's sentence, Judge Dzaidin said: "You are lucky to escape death by the skin of your teeth. I hope you learn a bitter lesson."

"That's what I expected," Cohen said after the sentencing. "The judge was too harsh on Aaron."

Lawyers said the appeal would be held in Malaysia's

Supreme Court. The final appeal lies with the Penang Pardons Court.

The prosecution lawyer, Mr Muhammad Bazain Idris, said he was also considering an appeal against the conviction of Aaron, which is the first instance in Malaysia of a defence rebutting a presumption of drug trafficking.

Datuk Seri Mahathir Muhammad, the Prime Minister, said yesterday that his country would treat drug traffickers as murderers.

"Our laws are harsh but we make no apology. Our youths are being destroyed by this scourge. We consider those who distribute drugs as their destroyers, their murderers. And it is as murderers that they will be treated," he said.

Lange holds off intervention

From Richard Long, Wellington

Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, made it clear last night that his Government would make representations to Malaysia against the sentence on Cohen, but said action would be taken only after all avenues of legal appeal were exhausted.

He said his Government had no sympathy for drug trafficking, but considered stern and humane penalties and treatment were the only options, not the death penalty.

He said it would be inappropriate and almost certainly counter-productive to make representations at present. "It is only when the regular legal processes have been completed and if the outcome of those processes is to confirm the death sentence that it would be appropriate for any representations to be made," Mr Lange said.

SYDNEY: News of the death sentence was received here with surprisingly ambivalent feelings (Stephen Taylor writes). While some Anstra-

lians have been seeking to save Cohen, others have apparently sought to influence the Malaysian authorities against her.

During the trial Australian experts testified that Mrs Cohen and her son were addicts with voracious habits. However, two prominent media personalities last week drew the Malaysians' attention to information that Cohen, a Sydney prostitute, once had

connections with the "Mr Asia" drug syndicate.

Mr Bob Bottom, a journalist specializing in organized crime, sent information to the Malaysian High Commission in Canberra the effect that Mrs Cohen had acted as a dealer for Alexander Sinclair, otherwise known as Terence Clarke, then head of the "Mr Asia" syndicate, who died last year while serving a life sentence in Britain.

Mr Deryn Hinch, a broadcaster on a Melbourne radio station, repeated this claim on air.

Last week Mr Bottom said he would have "no trauma" if Cohen was sent to the gallows. And yesterday Mr Hinch said he had "no regrets" about making the broadcast.

A different reaction came from Mrs Barbara Barlow, whose son Kevin was executed with Brian Chambers in Malaysia a year ago.

Mrs Barlow said that she had met Mrs Cohen in prison when she was visiting her son. And found her "a very warm lady".

Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister, said after a Cabinet meeting that the deportation order would be reconsidered.

"If the law is an ass we will have to make it suitable for horses," he said.

Mr Lange said the NZ\$2 million (£728,000) stallion, Destroyer, imported for stud, had been born in South Africa of parents which were not South African. It had been in America for six years before

entering New Zealand. Six years was a long time in the life of a horse and it was not correct to describe the animal as South African, he said.

In addition, the horse had been in America at the time the South African trade sanctions had been imposed in 1985 after the Commonwealth conference resolution, he said.

Ministers at the Cabinet meeting reported negative

US fact-finding mission in Nicaragua

Ortega in slanging match with senator

From David Gollob, Managua

As residents watched in amazement, a speeding convoy of United States Embassy vehicles, their warning lights flashing, escorted a mibus of five Republican senators on a fact-finding mission through Managua on Monday.

The delegation, headed by Senator Robert Dole, the Republican minority leader and presidential candidate, was warmly welcomed by Nicaraguan opposition figures, but was criticized by Britain's shadow Foreign Secretary, Mr Gerald Kaufman, who is himself on a short visit to Nicaragua.

The delegation's meeting with President Ortega quickly degenerated into a shouting match. The President, apparently angered by a letter written by Senator Dole and published in an American newspaper before he left for Nicaragua, allowed nearly a hundred journalists to sit in on the meeting. Then he berated the Republican sen-

ators for their support of the Contra rebels.

Senator Dole pressed President Ortega to allow publication of the banned opposition newspaper *La Prensa*, and to release two human rights ac-

torialists jailed for taking part in an illegal demonstration last month. He said these gestures would show Nicaragua's readiness to comply with the Central American peace plan.

The President responded by holding up photographs of an American priest, reportedly jailed in Florida last April for taking part in a protest against US policy in Central America.

He offered to release the human rights activists in exchange for the American priest's freedom.

Asked when Nicaragua would reopen *La Prensa* and restore other democratic freedoms, Señor Ortega said: "When the US stops the war."

Under the Guatemala peace accord, Nicaragua will restore

the senators' request to be allowed to visit the two jailed activists was refused.

"I draw the conclusion that they have no intention of complying with the peace treaty," Senator Steven Symms of Idaho said. "This is a police state and the communist dictators want to solidify their hold on this country."

Senator Dole insisted that if a "legitimate ceasefire" were arranged, aid to the Contras, which runs out on September 30, would be suspended. But if the peace effort failed, he would press for increased aid.

"I think it's a long shot," he said when asked if the peace plan could work. "I did when I came and I haven't changed my mind."

Mr Kaufman, who has spent the past four days in Nicaragua interviewing members of the Opposition and the Government, said of the delegation's living visit: "It's clearly infantile to come to a country for four hours and start making profound judgments."

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Stallion jumps New Zealand sanctions hurdle

From Richard Long, Wellington

After an embarrassing public outcry, the New Zealand Government seems set to allow a South African-born stallion to remain in the country, although it had earlier ordered the animal's deportation under regulations prohibiting the import of products from the Republic.

Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister, said after a Cabinet meeting that the deportation order would be reconsidered.

"If the law is an ass we will have to make it suitable for horses," he said.

Mr Lange said the NZ\$2 million (£728,000) stallion, Destroyer, imported for stud, had been born in South Africa of parents which were not South African. It had been in America for six years before

entering New Zealand. Six years was a long time in the life of a horse and it was not correct to describe the animal as South African, he said.

In addition, the horse had been in America at the time the South African trade sanctions had been imposed in 1985 after the Commonwealth conference resolution, he said.

Ministers at the Cabinet meeting reported negative

public reaction to the Government's order last week that the horse must be deported.

Mr Trevor de Cloene, the Customs Minister, said then that he had no powers of dispensation. After the Cabinet decision he said the owner, Mr Peter McKenzie, could reapply for import permission. Mr McKenzie said yesterday that he had sent a new application.

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Mr McKenzie said yesterday that he had sent a new application.

Astronaut prompts fresh debate on US space programme

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

In the wake of the publication of an important report on the future of the US space programme by Dr Sally Ride, America's first woman in space, a national debate on the future of the troubled US space programme has now begun in earnest.

The US space agency has been making a slow and painful recovery from last year's shuttle disaster, which claimed the lives of seven astronauts and severely retarded America's role as the leading space-faring nation.

For 20 years, the US was the undisputed leader in nearly all civilian space endeavours. But over the past decade, Washington has relinquished its leadership to Moscow in key areas.

The American programme lacks some fundamental capabilities, such as minimal earth-to-orbit transportation, and has lost its leadership to the Soviet Union in the exploration of Mars and long-duration manned space flight.

With Mariner and Viking missions in the 1960s and 1970s, the US pioneered the exploration of Mars. But no American spacecraft has visited Mars since 1976.

Nasa's current plans for future exploration of Mars include only the Mars Observer Mission, to be launched in 1992. In contrast, Moscow has announced a programme of extensive robotic exploration of the Martian surface, starting next year and extending through the 1990s.

The Russians are also the sole long-term inhabitants of low-earth orbit. The first, and only, US space station, Skylab, was visited by three crews of astronauts before it was vacated in 1974. The US has had no space station since.

The Soviet Union has had eight space stations in orbit since the mid-1970s. The latest, Mir, was launched last year. It will be able to accommodate cosmonauts and scientific experiments for nearly a decade before the projected American space station can take astronauts in 1996.

So the capabilities, direction and

future of Nasa have become subjects of highly controversial public discussions and critical professional and congressional debate.

Two fundamental, potentially inconsistent views have emerged.

Many experts believe that the agency should still adopt a visionary approach. They argue that this would galvanize support, focus attention on Nasa programmes, and generally create excitement.

Others believe that the agency is already over-committed in the 1990s. They argue that Nasa will be struggling to get the shuttle to fly again in June next year and build a space station, and could not handle another big programme.

The simple questions being asked by the Reagan Administration, Congress, scientists, industry and the average American are: "Where do we want to be at the turn of the century? What do we have to do now to get there?"

American experts now concede that leadership in space does not mean that the US must be pre-eminent in all areas.

The widening range of space activities and the increasing number of potential space-faring nations, including the member countries of the European Space Agency, China and Japan, make it virtually impossible for any one country to dominate everything.

It is, therefore, essential for the US to move promptly to determine its priorities and to pursue a

Washington has now relinquished much of its leadership to Moscow

strategy which would restore and sustain its leadership in the areas deemed important.

In response to growing concern over the huge cost and the long-term direction of the US space programme, Dr Sally Ride was commissioned to evaluate the American effort in the light of "the nation's desire to regain and retain space leadership."

The Ride report has now given Nasa a blueprint for the future focusing on:

● "Mission to Planet Earth." This would use satellites in low-earth orbit to examine the earth's atmosphere, ocean topography and vegetation.

● "Exploration of the solar system." This calls for the sending of unmanned spacecraft to a comet (Tempel 2), an outer planet (Saturn) and an inner planet (Mars).

● "Outposts on the moon." This would return Americans to the moon, leading eventually to a permanent lunar base for research and observation.

● "Humans to Mars." Dr Ride admitted that a successful Mars initiative would recapture the high ground of world space leadership and would provide an exciting focus for creativity, motivation, and pride of the American people.

But the report dampened the hopes of those who have pushed for a manned mission to Mars by 2005, saying that Nasa should not "rush headlong" towards the planet. It should aim for the moon again and develop the technology and experience needed for an orderly expansion outward from earth.

Dr Ride pointed out that such a fast-paced Mars initiative could turn into a "one-shot spectacular" and a "political stunt" that would lose public support.

Instead, there should be a natural progression of human expansion that leads from the highlands of the moon to the plains of Mars. Dr Ride's report did not provide cost estimates but said such programmes would have to stay within the fiscal constraints that Nasa will face in coming years.

Six former astronauts have recently given a warning that proposed congressional cuts in the space agency's budget would curtail the development of a manned space station and would make the US a "second-rate player" in space exploration.

The Senate Appropriations Committee is reported to have cut \$8.8 million in next year's funds for Nasa and other independent agencies. This could severely harm the space station programme. Nasa has asked for about \$767 million for the space station in 1988, which is estimated to cost about \$12 billion

Judge is wounded by gunmen in Berlin

Bonn - Two unknown gunmen shot and wounded a judge in West Berlin yesterday and an attempt was made to blow up a US troop train in West Germany in what security men believe is a new terrorist campaign after a lull of several months (John England writes).

The judge, Herr Günter Korbacher, aged 61, was shot in the legs as he left his home. Doctors said that his wounds were not serious. His attackers escaped on a motor cycle.

Suspected terrorists also tried to blow up an American troop train near Hedemünden, early yesterday on its regular daily run between West Berlin and Frankfurt. But the bomb intended for it damaged only a goods train.

Stiff sentence for corruption

Vienna (Reuter) - Bratislava's high court has confirmed a 14½-year sentence on Stanislav Babinsky, the head of a Czechoslovakian state grocery enterprise, Prague Radio said.

The high court said that his sentence, for "theft of socialist property", must be served in the strictest correctional group.

Gas hunt stops

Stockholm (Reuter) - A Swedish and American team which drilled one of the world's deepest man-made holes in Sweden in a search for gas said it had abandoned the project after failing to find commercially-viable deposits.

Vigil by candle

Panama City (Reuter) - Thousands of Panamanians held a candlelight vigil at a church to mourn the killing of a demonstrator protesting against the military regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Killer typhoon

Tokyo (AFP) - Typhoon Dinah left at least four dead, 121 injured and two missing when it hit Japanese islands this week, the National Policy Agency reported.

Crash tragedy

Ankara (Reuter) - Eleven people were killed and 39 injured when a bus and a lorry carrying thousands of bees collided near the north-western Turkish town of Isparta.

Condom raid

Brisbane (Reuter) - Student leaders said police raided two universities and seized condom vending machines which are illegal in Queensland.

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Deng's move to ease the old guard out of office

By Cyril Zhukov

Rumours of the impending retirement of Mr. Deng Xiaoping, China's senior leader, have circulated since the past few years that observers have learnt to treat them with a healthy degree of scepticism. But the recent New China News Agency commentary on Mr. Deng's retirement, the most authoritative statement so far, indicates that this time Mr. Deng will really be stepping down.

As part of his attempt to rejuvenate the party and state leadership by replacing aged veterans with younger technocrats, Mr. Deng, aged 83, had previously sought to retire and thereby set an example for others. Chinese political decorum requires subordinates to emulate the behaviour of the superior.

But other veteran leaders, such as President Li, aged 82, Mr. Chen Yun, aged 82, Mr. Bo Yibo, aged 85, and Mr. Peng Zhen, aged 85, have been reluctant to go, and have "dissuaded" Mr. Deng from doing so. Mr. Deng therefore retained his seat in the Politburo, as did all the other senior leaders.

It is the Politburo membership which Mr. Deng can now be expected to give up at the 13th party congress, scheduled to open on October 25, a move which other aged veterans must follow. He is also likely to retire from the chairmanship of the Central Advisory Commission but can be expected to retain that of the all-important Central Military Commission.

Mr. Deng will certainly continue to be the most powerful man in China after stepping down from the Politburo. The real significance of these changes is not the retirement of Mr. Deng, but the concomitant retirement of the other aged leaders, who are generally conservatives and are opposed to aspects of the market-oriented economic reforms and the party's "open door policy".

At 83 he is unlikely to survive another full five-year term in the Politburo, and he will want to settle the leadership succession issue while he is still alive and thus avoid a power struggle.

The resolution of the succession issue has been thrust upon Mr

Deng by the actions of conservatives jockeying for position in anticipation of the forthcoming party congress. The congress promises to be one of the most crucial in China's post-1949 history, and certainly the most important since the death of Chairman Mao in 1976.

The new party leadership which will be elected at the congress will have to face difficult choices in ideologically contentious and technically complex economic and political reforms. These reforms will, in turn, condition the nature of Chinese policies for the rest of the century, and determine the prospects for realizing the country's ambitious economic modernization objectives.

Economic reforms so far have proved to be problematic, characterized by periodic overheating, inflationary pressures, budgetary and trade deficits and a slowdown in crop output growth. Proposals for the resolution of these difficulties have become increasingly radical.

The overwhelming majority of Chinese economists now advocate

profound changes in the system of state ownership, and the introduction of a fully-fledged market system in which state intervention is limited to that practised in South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore.

Similarly, proposals for political reform are proving to be a Pandora's box. Academics and intellectuals have called for checks and balances to the monopoly of power by the Communist Party. These demands are anathema to the leadership, conservatives and reformers alike, whose conception of political reform is limited to the separation of party and state functions.

In these conflicts, which are essentially a power struggle between the old and the young, Mr. Deng has served as the ultimate umpire, staying into the fray only when play is out of bounds. His own preference is for a balanced leadership which is bold and pragmatic in economic policies but conservative in ideological and political matters. His *modus operandi*, judging from past actions, is to give his opponents enough rope to hang themselves.

Excesses on both the left and the right, such as the Democracy Wall movement in 1978, the Spring Pollard Campaign in 1982, and the student demonstrations in 1986, were all abruptly halted.

The latest salvo has been the conservatives' attempt to widen the scope of the campaign against bourgeois liberalism, following the resignation of the party's General Secretary, Mr. Hu Yaobang, and to undermine reformers' leaders such as Mr. Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, by criticizing the economic reform programme.

Mr. Deng appears now to be stepping into the fray by stepping down. Despite Mr. Zhao's preference to stay on as Prime Minister, it is now clear that he has agreed to relinquish the post and take over formally as general secretary of the party in line with Mr. Deng's wishes. But the choice of a new Prime Minister remains undecided, although the field of candidates has now narrowed to Mr. Li Peng and Mr. Wan Li, with the latter enjoying the better prospects.

There is still considerable de-

bate going on as to whether the standing committee of the Politburo should maintain the present seven-member membership or be expanded to eight.

Mr. Zhao's resignation has also raised the question of whether the Politburo should be expanded to include more technocrats and younger leaders.

One option under serious discussion is the election of a new Politburo. Whether this would involve simply a change in personnel, or the abolition of the Politburo as the Politburo after Stalin's death to replace it with a more substantive organization of policy-making processes, remains unclear. If the Politburo were to be abolished, then the Secretariat of the Central Committee might be enlarged to replace the standing committee. Another and more likely reorganization would be the abolition of the State Planning Commission and the replacement of it by a new body, the State Economic Commission, which would be responsible for the economic planning and management of the country. This would be a significant change, as the Politburo has been the supreme decision-making body in China since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. The new body would be headed by Mr. Zhao, the current chairman of the State Planning Commission, who in recent months has emerged as the most powerful figure in economic matters.

These changes are still undecided and will remain so until the next national congress. The change of the Politburo would be a significant move, as the Politburo has been the supreme decision-making body in China since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. The new body would be headed by Mr. Zhao, the current chairman of the State Planning Commission, who in recent months has emerged as the most powerful figure in economic matters. The abolition of the State Planning Commission and the replacement of it by a new body, the State Economic Commission, which would be responsible for the economic planning and management of the country. This would be a significant change, as the Politburo has been the supreme decision-making body in China since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. The new body would be headed by Mr. Zhao, the current chairman of the State Planning Commission, who in recent months has emerged as the most powerful figure in economic matters.

Aquino palace guard 'put on red alert' before coup attempt

From Michael Hamlyn, Manila

President Aquino of the Philippines appeared live on prime-time television last night to read a dramatic account of her personal experiences during the coup attempt against her last Friday.

She made it clear that the coup attempt did not come as a surprise to her intelligence organization, but that her guards were on red alert at the time, and that armoured vehicles had been posted at key points in the city.

"Intelligence did not fail me on that occasion," she said, rebutting an often-made criticism of her military leaders. "We anticipated a coup attempt by these specific officers for some time now."

However, her presidential security group was depleted last Friday because of her intended visit to a provincial meeting.

"I had gone to bed at midnight," Mrs. Aquino told her supporters, "and I was awakened by the sound of gunfire."

After describing the attack by a 200-strong rebel force on her palace, led by Colonel Gregorio Honasan, the President related that the commander of her guard advised her to move to the presidential residence.

He also advised her to prepare to move elsewhere if necessary. "I did not argue then," she said, "but I had no intention of moving. This was my place. I remembered what happened to my predecessor who did not make a stand."

Mrs. Aquino also described the attack made on her son, Benigno, who was returning to the palace just as the rebels were retreating. Three of his bodyguards, following in a back-up car, were killed, but Mrs. Aquino said that when

her son was rescued he kept from her the fact that he, too, had been wounded.

After the rebels had removed to the armed forces' headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo in a Manila suburb Mrs. Aquino said that she was in touch with General Fidel Ramos, the chief of the armed

Manila - The Philippines Government is to investigate the possible involvement of the Americans in the bloody coup attempt against President Aquino's administration, according to Mr. Rafael Iles, the Defence Minister, (Michael Hamlyn writes).

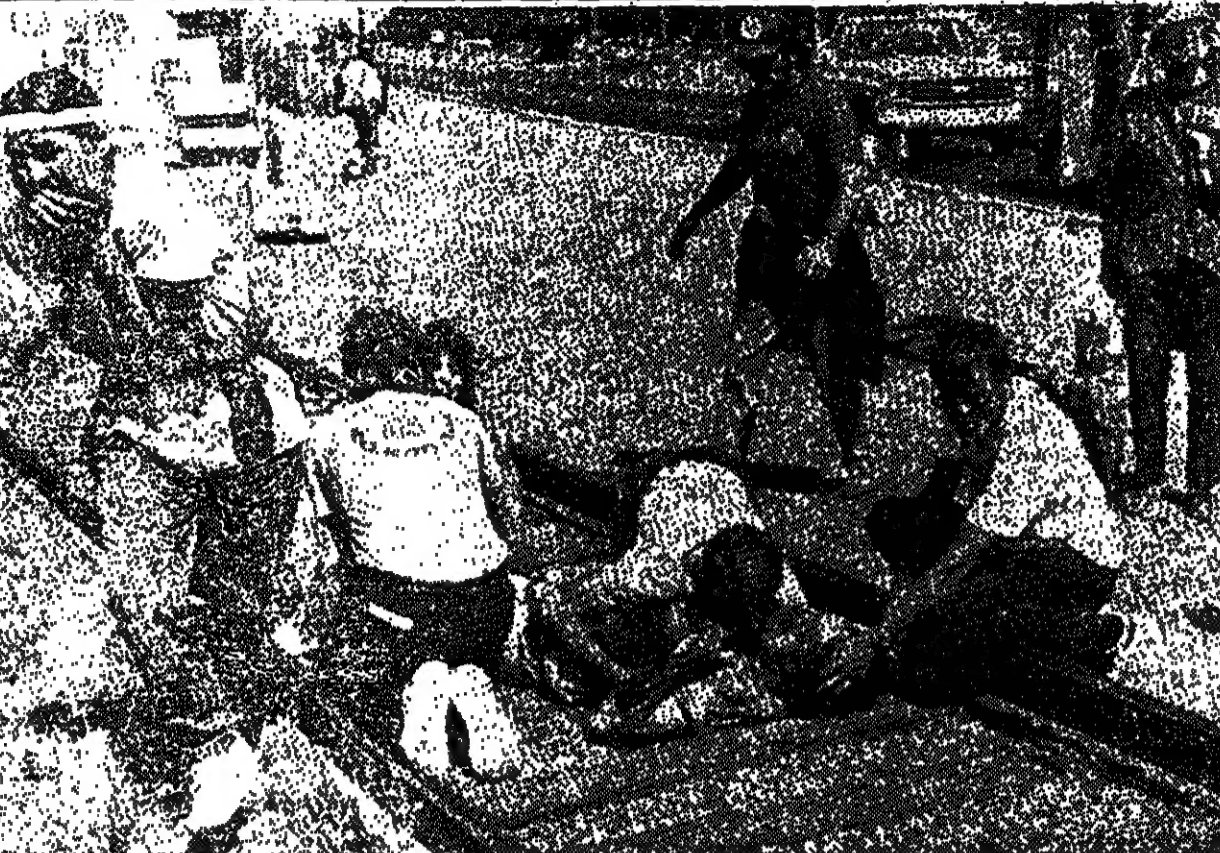
The US Ambassador, Mr. Nicholas Platt, yesterday issued a firm denial of US involvement. The US role during the attempted coup had been limited to being in touch with Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, the former Defence Minister, who had been implicated in a previous coup attempt to overthrow the President.

"I grieve for the dead on both sides," Mrs. Aquino said, "but it was necessary because I had to prevent a greater violence."

The President described how Colonel Honasan had deceived his troops into thinking they were taking part in a test to pass out of a training school, and that some men were told the presidential palace was under attack by communist guerrillas.

"It is not the way of true leaders to delude their followers," Mrs. Aquino said. "By their lies they put to shame the noblest traditions of the armed forces."

Also yesterday, General Ramos said that Colonel Honasan might now have taken refuge in the streets of Manila.



US anti-war protester run over by arms train

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

An anti-war activist trying to block arms shipments for the Nicaraguan Contras was killed when he was dragged under a military train as it pulled out of the Concord Naval Weapons Centre. His teenage stepson watched the accident in horror.

"They've killed my dad," the boy, Gabriel Raven, screamed. The incident involving his stepfather, Mr. Brian Wilson, aged 45, was filmed by one of the demonstrators.

The dramatic film footage, screened on a San Francisco television station last night, showed Mr. Wilson sitting on the track along with others. He was about to begin what was to be a 40-day fast to protest against the arms shipment.

The train sounded its whistles as it left the base, heading towards the protesters.

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A woman sick with horror turning away from her fellow demonstrator who was seriously injured by an arms train as his stepson, below, watched.



Thirteen crushed by train

Dhaka - Thirteen railway workers were crushed to death under a passenger train on a bridge 120 miles east of here, railway police said (Ahmed Fazi writes).

The workers were repairing tracks on the bridge over the river Mahabub near the town of Feni when an inter-city train ran over them.

Ghetto protest
Frankfurt (Reuters) - West German police evicted 30 protesters trying to stop a building project on the site of Frankfurt's medieval Jewish ghetto. The demonstrators want the site to be preserved as a monument.

Suharto call
Jakarta (AFP) - President Suharto of Indonesia told a Cabinet meeting on damage from wild animals to crops and villages that bears should be shot, but that elephants should be spared so that they did not become extinct.

107 buried
Peking (Reuters) - A landslide in central China has buried 107 people, killing at least 34, the New China News Agency reported. It buried a hotel, and private homes in Wuxi county, Sichuan Province.

Bomb blast
Beirut (Reuters) - A bomb hidden in a briefcase exploded in a street in Muslim west Beirut, injuring two people, police said.

Split decision
Tokyo (AFP) - A divorce case that has been dragging on for 38 years was closed when the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the husband, aged 73.

Seoul hits snag on detentions

From David Watts, Seoul

The South Korean Government and Opposition have agreed a political schedule, including presidential elections in December, but are still at odds over political prisoners.

But Mr. Kim Young Sam, leader of the Reunification Democratic Party, said after his first formal meeting with Mr. Roh Tae Woo, leader of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, that the issue would not be a barrier to progress.

Mr. Kim said that those who had struggled for democracy should not be left behind and proposed that a special committee look into the question.

Mr. Roh seemingly at first agreed to the idea but then said he would have to discuss it with party colleagues. He declined the offer of a joint declaration against radical left-wingers, saying the problem would be resolved when full democracy was restored, noting that leftism in South Korea is not related to communism but a response to 26 years of authoritarian rule.

Direct elections for a new president will be held before December 20. A special session of the National Assembly to consider the new draft constitution will open on September 10 and is expected to approve it in early October ready for a national referendum later the same month.

On their first day back at university yesterday thousands of students demonstrated, while nearly 15,000 workers at the Hyundai Heavy Industries shipyard at Ulsan went back on strike over the failure of union and management to agree on new salaries.

Soldier in jail for 24 years

By Caroline Moorehead

Napoleon Ortigoza is thought to be the longest-serving political prisoner in Latin America. He has been held in solitary confinement in a Paraguayan jail for most of the past 24 years and has repeatedly tried to commit suicide.

Señor Ortigoza, aged 55, was a cavalry captain in the Paraguayan Army when, in the early 1960s, he became involved in politics. Without leaving the Army, he declared himself a political opponent of General Alfredo Stroessner, who took control of the country in a coup in 1954.

In December 1962, Captain Ortigoza was suddenly arrested and accused, together with a group of other people, of involvement in a conspiracy against President Stroessner.

At the same time, he was charged with the murder of a military cadet, who, the police said, was killed by Ortigoza.

Ortigoza was sentenced to 15 years in prison for the murder of the military cadet, and 25 years for Captain Ortigoza.

In March 1984, after more than 21 years in prison, Sergeant Ortigoza was released.

According to Article 66 of the new Paraguayan Military Penal Code of Justice, a prisoner who has originally been sentenced to death, and then has his sentence commuted, becomes eligible for release after serving three quarters of his sentence.

Captain Ortigoza has already served his full sentence.

He and his driver, Sergeant Guillermo Ovando, were sentenced to death by firing squad. The sentences were later commuted to 15 years in prison for Sergeant Ovando and 25 years for Captain Ortigoza.

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Australia urges navy deal on New Zealand

From Richard Long, Wellington

Mr. Kim Beazley, the Australian Defence Minister, is to visit New Zealand next week to try to obtain a commitment from Wellington on the joint procurement of new surface warships for their two navies.

The visit, the first since the Australian and New Zealand elections confirmed the two Labour governments in power, is seen in both countries as a move to commit New Zealand to the dozen ships to be built in Australian shipyards for the two navies.

Australia is to take eight of them and New Zealand has tentatively agreed to buy four. The new ships, described as

"surface combatants" rather than frigates, will cost an estimated NZ\$250 million to NZ\$350 million (about £90 million to £125 million), depending on the armaments and technology selected.

Mr. Beazley's visit is seen as the first test of the resolution of the differences between the two governments on the shipbuilding issue.

The Australians want to see the new ship purchase programme in place and to have an assurance that New Zealand is with them, one New Zealand defence expert said.

Stamp error that let CIA workers make a killing

Washington (NYT) - Call it the inverted candlestick caper. As embarrassments go, it doesn't exactly rank with the Bay of Pigs. But neither is it the kind of publicity that the Central Intelligence Agency goes looking for.

According to government investigators, the CIA last year unwittingly bought scores of misprinted postage stamps, with an upside-down image of a vintage candlestick.

Several agency employees had the analytical skills to notice the error and the financial savvy to recognize the value of such a rarity. And the investigators say, the CIA workers made a secret deal among themselves, sold the stamps for thousands of dollars and split the profits.

It is unclear whether the sale was illegal or even improper, but it is certain that stamp collectors are beside themselves. This is the most exciting stamp story of the year, and the CIA angle adds a lot of pizzazz," said Mr. Donald Sandman, a stamp dealer of Camden, New York, who helped to expose the CIA's involvement. "I was sort of wondering

whether the money had gone to the Contras or something."

Characteristically, the agency refused to say if the incident had prompted an internal investigation or any sort of punishment. "We don't discuss internal matters," Miss Sharon Foster, a CIA spokeswoman, said. "I can't comment on the specific issues, but I will point out that the agency has a high standard of conduct for its employees."

It is also unclear exactly how much money was divided among the CIA workers, who sold the stamps in April, 1986.

But, according to *Linn's Stamp News*, a journal for stamp collectors that first reported the story, one of the stamps sold by the CIA employees was later purchased for more than \$17,000 (£10,370). Another fetched \$5,000, it said.

According to the Government, one sheet of 400 inverted 51 stamps was printed in November 1985, along with more than 28 million normal versions of the candlestick stamp. The CIA employees' involvement

was uncovered by the bureau which assigned investigators to follow the trail of the 400 stamps. The investigators determined that 95 of them were bought by the CIA from a post office in McLean, Virginia, in March, 1986. Of those, nine were used on CIA mail before several employees noticed the printing mistake and decided to make some money on them.

The stamps were first bought by Mr. Jacques Schiff Jr., a dealer in

Edgefield Park, New Jersey, who specializes in the sale of rare, misprinted stamps. Mr. Schiff said he was visited in April, 1986 by a man and a woman from Washington.

"They said they worked in an office, where they found the stamps," he said. "They claimed that they didn't want their names used in any way because their boss might find out." He said he understood there

were nine CIA employees involved in the scheme and said that, in buying the stamps, he was asked to make out nine separate checks.

Mr. Schiff would not say how much he had paid for the 86 stamps. But he said their discovery was a landmark in stamp collecting history. "They are great rarities," he said. "In the history of United States stamps, I believe we've only had 10 or 11 'inverts.' The most famous is a 1918 24-cent airmail stamp, known as the Inverted Jenny, because of its upside-down image of a Curtiss JN4H biplane. One was auctioned in 1982 for nearly \$200,000.

Mr. Schiff said he had no idea that the pair worked for the CIA. "I was shocked when I found out," he said.

The names of the CIA employees were deleted from the report, a copy of which was obtained by Mr. Sandman under the Freedom of Information Act. Mr. Sandman had become curious about the history of the inverted stamps.

Mr. Ira Pollack, a spokesman for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, insisted that he knew nothing

about the fate of the CIA workers.

He said the printing bureau, which prints stamps used by the United States Postal Service, routinely investigates whenever there are errors in its work. "We try to find out the reason for the problem, so we can avoid it in the future," he said.

Miss Foster of the CIA would answer none of the substantive questions about the case. She would not identify what had become of the money received from the stamp sale, nor would she say if the stamps were considered government property and could be confiscated.

She did, however, answer a less important but still perplexing question: Why does the CIA buy small quantities of stamps?

"We do mailings, and each office has their own purchases of stamps," she said. "That's not unusual."

Saboteurs suspected in Chinese 'bombings'

From Robert Grieses, Lanzhou

Two recent incidents in China's western Gansu province - a train crash in a tunnel and a car explosion at an airport - may have been acts of sabotage, according to Chinese sources.

The incidents do not appear to be related to a bombing in Tiananmen Square, Peking, on July 17.

Early last month an explosion ripped through a car at Lanzhou's airport, killing the driver, according to reliable sources in Lanzhou and Peking. The incident occurred moments after the driver dropped off a local Communist Party cadre who had arrived at the terminal to meet his wife as she returned from Peking on a commercial flight. The cadre was not injured.

The unusual circumstances prompted speculation in Lanzhou that the explosion was caused by a bomb intended for the official, according to Chinese sources. Because the car was destroyed and the driver killed instantly, a formal investigation failed to turn up much information.

In the train derailment, an oil-tanker wagon left the tracks inside a tunnel about 10 miles east of Lanzhou on August 23, killing three people and starting a fire that raged for several days. Firefighters had to build a wall at one end of the tunnel as a first step in extinguishing the blaze.

Although officials in Lanzhou refused to speculate on the cause of the rail crash, residents of Lanzhou theorized that a bomb might have been involved. More than 37,000 passengers were stranded by the derailment, and soldiers sent to clear the line were not expected to finish before the end of this week.

Western analysts say that bombings and other acts of violence have been perpetrated throughout China since 1949 by people who oppose the communist regime. Such acts are rarely reported in the Chinese press.

Rebels may be easy to assemble since gunpowder, rifles, magazines and explosives are sold at construction sites and army ordnance facilities, and are difficult to obtain.

The *People's Daily* reported last week that Deng Qilin, aged 24, had been sentenced to death for the Tiananmen bombing, in which a device placed in a rubbish bin near the Mao Tse-tung mausoleum exploded just before dawn.

Western diplomats in Peking said yesterday that they were unaware of the Gansu incidents. No one has linked the Tiananmen Square bombing with recent bombings in Hong Kong that were supposedly instigated by a group opposed to the Chinese takeover of Hong Kong in 1997.

THE TIMES DIARY

Going to Sainsbury's

Owenite staff at the SDP's Cowley Street HQ who feel under pressure to take voluntary redundancy (PHS yesterday) may soon be presented with alternative employment. The anti-merger group, which campaigned for Rosie Barnes's office in Greenwich before the conference, now looks set to establish its own SDP HQ in exile. I hear negotiations are under way for an office in the Diatch building at Buckingham Gate, conveniently close to Westminster. The office, owned by David Sainsbury, millionaire champion of the Owen faction, will offer a more favourable lease than the £70,000 a year paid for Cowley Street. Insiders tip as a skeleton staff Martin Stott, the parliamentary assistant of MP John Cartwright, and Chris Hopson, the former party agent in Bath. But there will be others: there is room for 15, I am told.

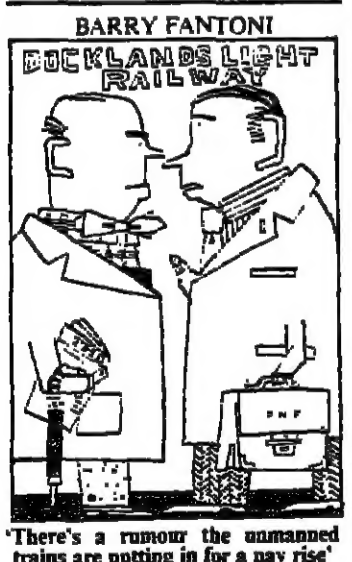
● Talk about rooting yourself in the past. Robert Skidelsky, professor of International Studies at Warwick University and biographer of John Maynard Keynes, who yesterday gave the SDP conference his forecast of the political and economic picture for the 1990s, owns the house in Sussex Keynes once lived in.

Rouble rouser

The Soviet authorities have at last reimbursed Joseph Finklestone, foreign editor of the *Jewish Chronicle*, who was refused a visa in March to accompany Mrs Thatcher on her visit to Moscow. When he applied for the visa, he was told he had to lodge an unrefundable £300 with Aeroflot and £850 for his hotel. When it was eventually refused, along with those for two Israeli journalists, Finklestone asked a friend, the Tory MP Ivan Lawrence, to lean on the Soviet embassy to get his money back. A tidy bit of interest there, I'd say, for an anti-capitalist outfit.

Tutu tours

If you're taking a holiday in Greece or Turkey next summer don't be surprised if you spot Archbishop Desmond Tutu working as a tour guide. The archbishop will be taking some time off from tending his troubled South African flock to escort tourists "in the steps of St Paul" for Interchurch, a subsidiary of Thomas Cook. The company tells me this will be the first time that Tutu has acted as a tour leader for them, although he is following the example of Dr Robert Runcie who used to lecture on cruise ships when Bishop of St Albans. The work will not supplement Tutu's earnings. "We're just paying his expenses," the company says.



Shifting sands

More evidence, if it were needed, that relations between the two Alliance partners are not what they were. When the SDP met in Harrogate last year, the Liberal Party's publication stall was given pride of place, directly outside the conference hall. This year it has been relegated to a marquee outside the Guildhall. By yesterday morning conference organizers had moved it three times to make room for other exhibitors.

● It's not just the Spanish air traffic controllers. A friend recently on the Greek island of Thira tells me he travelled 10 miles in sweltering heat, the last two by mule up a mountain, to visit a monastery famed for its icons. He found it shut, the guardian monks "in dispute" with their bishop.

Big in pictures

The biggest seller at the SDP conference bookstall in Portsmouth is David Owen's *Personally Speaking*. More than a quarter of the 100 copies in stock were sold on the first day, but Barbara Dean, the bookstall manager, concedes that the interest in Owen is not entirely political. "Several women have come up and said they've heard there's a good photograph." It shows a dishevelled and bearded Owen sipping tea with fellow students in Afghanistan in 1959, looking as if it was some time since he'd seen the *Lifeguard*. But the craggy features of not-so-good looking Des Wilson, the Liberal president, cannot be the reason for the flourishing sales of his book. By yesterday lunchtime 17 of the 20 copies of *Battle for Power*, a study of the Alliance election campaign, had been snapped up.

PHS

Questions over the carnival

by John Alderson



The ugly side of a festival of fun: Notting Hill late on Monday night

It was supposed to be an annual expression of Caribbean culture, gaiety, and fun. Again the Notting Hill Carnival has been disgraced and disrupted by outbreaks of violent crime and disorder, including serious assaults on the police.

It was much the same in 1976 when the then Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Robert Mark, reported that the cost of the carnival included "some hundreds of robberies, looting of shops, and other premises, many vehicles damaged, and 400 police and 200 civilians injured."

At the end of it all only two youths were sent to prison for offences directly related to the carnival. It seemed that in the coolness of the aftermath the judicial processes failed to satisfy police anger. They did, however, lead to changes in police equipment and tactics.

In an attempt to excuse the violence, the police were accused of generating tension and provoking the attacks upon them by an overtly visible presence on the streets.

In 1977 the new commissioner, Sir David McNee, relied principally on the carnival organizers to keep things under control and kept the bulk of his men out of sight, but on call if needed, in Hyde Park. The subsequent years went well and testified to the new mood of co-operation and rapprochement between the police and the carnival crowds.

McNee wrote: "The Notting Hill carnival took place over three days wholly without violence, and indeed without almost any incident to spoil its enjoyment. Each subsequent year had

brought an improvement and the 1982 carnival was the best ever" — even though, he added, "the potential for hooliganism and rioting was there as in previous years." Until this weekend, organizers and police alike had reason to be thankful that that potential was not fulfilled.

The main problems, as they are with football hooliganism, are the crimes of violence and disorder committed by roving groups of young men; they are, essentially, a social phenomenon that has little or nothing to do with racial issues. The combination of large and anonymous crowds of people and the cathartic effect of mass emotionalism

provide the perfect cover within which "the pack" or "packs" can operate.

The phenomenon is well researched and recorded — indeed it can be traced back to the tumult and disorder which marked the ancient Roman festival of Saturn (hence Saturnalia) — and has the understanding of the police planners and commanders.

But now, once again, the carnival has been the occasion for violent crime and disorder. Again the debate about policing "Europe's biggest carnival" is raised, with some people demanding that, in the interest of public order, it should be banned.

If it were, the great majority of carnival-goers, who are perfectly peaceable, would be deprived of an annual pleasure. Assuming that it continues, how should the police operate? Should they remain unobtrusive and hope for the best or try to pre-empt trouble by taking action against the individual packs before they can coalesce for a common attack on the police or bystanders?

Notting Hill, of course, is not the only example of the pack in action. It was seen at its deadliest in the fatal multiple stabbing of Police Constable Blake at Broadwater Farm in Tottenham.

Questions must also be asked about how well the police are equipped and organized to cope with the potential and actual danger of this and similar events, and what policy or series of policies should be adopted. They are difficult questions to answer.

The author, formerly Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall, is visiting professor in police studies at Strathclyde University.

Julian Critchley calculates the life left in Heseltine's crippled career

Can Tarzan swing back?

Has Michael Heseltine a political future? Clearly Mrs Thatcher's eventual successor would invite Heseltine to join his cabinet; but what are the chances of Heseltine himself succeeding to the Peacock Throne? I would put them at 3 to 1 against.

The charm of politics lies in its uncertainty. We do not know when Mrs Thatcher will retire to Dulwich. She could be run over by a bus (Lord Carrington: "What has driver would dare?"), or she might be immortal after all. What is certain is Heseltine's ambition.

Thirty years ago Michael Heseltine and I sat in a restaurant called Long John's in the dingy part of Oxford which abuts the railway station. He drew on the back of an envelope a chart of the remaining decades of the 20th century. Against the Nineties he wrote "No 10". Heseltine's subsequent career suggests that we should take such callow ambition very seriously indeed.

It is at least arguable that Heseltine is the best equipped of all the leading Tory contenders. While no intellectual, he is bright for a Conservative. He has high horsepower, physical and mental stamina, and political presence. He looked, and sounded like, a cabinet minister. He is the best platform speaker in the party, good in the House, even better on television. Wet he may be, but he is plainly no drip. But can he overcome his resignation from the Cabinet over Westland?

While the Westland affair, which took place 18 months ago, has been largely forgotten by the public (it certainly played no part in the general election), Heseltine's part in it has yet to be forgiven by the simpler Conservative MP. It is certain that those of them who consider themselves "Thatcherites", a smaller number than might be expected, will never forgive him. No boat has ever sailed so savagely routed. Heseltine humiliated the Prime Minister by walking out on her; his strictures as to her style and the quality of her leadership gave comfort to her enemies, and his departure was almost the cause of her own.

Her survival was due mainly to the instinctive closure of the party's ranks. Most Tory MPs were bewildered spectators: as the crisis grew in intensity Mrs Thatcher's enemies exulted and Heseltine's rejoiced, but the parti-



sans of each side remained few in number. Had Heseltine taken more care to cultivate his fellow MPs, had he been able to build over the years a personal following, the Westland affair might well have ended differently. He mounted his white horse, but the beast bolted.

Since last January Heseltine has been forced to take stock. An unnatural backbencher — he has been on the party's front bench since 1968 — he has had little choice but to mend his fences. He has travelled the country with a mouth full of nails, putting his digestion in peril as the guest of honour at a hundred different constituency dinners. He has published a book, *Where There's a Way*, a collection of speeches spiced with essays on popular capitalism and the problem of the inner cities, a book which was

briefly a best-seller. What he has taken care not to do is to attack directly Mrs Thatcher.

He has begun to cultivate his peers. Heseltine's popularity with the party activist, with the National Union whose task it is to sponsor the annual party conference, has never been in doubt. Did he not invent the seaside standing ovation which has now become a tiresome obligatory "extra", awarded to the most tongue-tied and uninspired of his ministerial colleagues? Indeed, so popular did Heseltine become with the party worker that he once suggested that the electoral college responsible for choosing the party leader (Tory MPs) be widened to include the more deserving of his admirers, a reform which was greeted with some hilarity.

It is, of course, the privilege of Tory MPs to choose between

black and white. When I once warned Heseltine that he lacked friends, he replied: "So what? Ted and Margaret didn't have any friends." Which seemed somehow to have missed the point. More recently he has been glimpsed in the tea room eating a rock cake of an alarming density, being nice to the nameless newly-elected. He does even lunch or dine nowadays in the members' dining room.

Michael is not a clubbable person. But he is more than willing to make a gift of himself in order to speak at a colleague's All Day Woman's Conference, Young Conservative dinner or supper club. In this way he can, at the price of exhaustion, kill two birds, consolidating his appeal with the party member and putting fellow MPs in his debt.

Ironically, Heseltine has an interest in the Prime Minister's longevity. It will be difficult for him to succeed from the backbenches. Were Mrs Thatcher to depart to Dulwich in three years' time, thus giving her successor time to play himself in before the next election, his Cabinet rivals, such as Kenneth Baker, would be in a stronger position to succeed than he. Were she to be the victim of some accident, Sir Geoffrey Howe would surely start favourite.

Were she to fight the next election and then depart, much would depend upon defeat or victory. Defeat would be of some advantage as Michael's talents would shine more in opposition; victory might lead to the accession of someone such as John Moore, who would be more to Mrs Thatcher's liking. All we can do is to peer into a glass, darkly.

In the meantime, Michael Heseltine has to articulate an alternative to Thatcherism while avoiding the charge of disloyalty. He is 54, which is comparatively young for a politician. He is rich. He cannot be overlooked. During the election campaign he toured the country with the blessing of Conservative Central Office, making more than 90 speeches. He remains one of the top three favourite Tory speakers in the country. But will his time ever come?

The author is Conservative MP for Aldershot. His book, *Heseltine: The Unauthorized Biography* (Andre Deutsch £9.95), will be published tomorrow.

Breaking up the Kremlin party

Mikhail Gorbachev will have to summon even more of his copious energies than he is already doing if his "revolution from above" is not to run into the sands, as such revolutions have tended to in Russia. Observers who were wondering even a few months ago whether Gorbachev meant business now realize that he does, but much of the Soviet party and the Soviet public will not comply.

The Communist Party is afraid of losing power and the man in the street of being found on the wrong side of history. The unifying leader's reforms are in the process of splitting the Soviet Union into two camps — those who support and those who reject or just sabotage "restructuring".

From the very beginning of his tenure Gorbachev's leadership has been rendered vulnerable, not only by those who suspected his purpose, but also by impatient supporters who felt he was not going far and fast enough. Mikhail Gorbachev's understanding of the Soviet Union is second to none, believes that a two-party "socialist" system has been quietly under discussion in Moscow among the more audacious of the Soviet reformers.

What is apparently contemplated is the coexistence of two communist parties — one in power and the other in "opposition".

Both would subscribe to the tenets of "socialism" but the opposition would provide the kind of feedback and criticism the party urgently needs if Gorbachev's reforms are not to be aborted.

It hardly needs saying that so radical a change would be a body blow to the whole concept of Leninism, and particularly the leading role of the Communist Party, which constitutes the irreducible essence of Soviet rule. It would, indeed, be difficult to see how the system could survive it, and how the satellites could be prevented from following suit or, indeed, hastening the erosion of metropolitan power by early strikes of their own.

Premature as these speculations clearly are, they are swarms in the wind that need watching. Arguably, the inspiration for the two-party heresy comes from Gorbachev himself. Talking to a group of writers on June 19, 1986, he said: "Restructuring proceeds with great difficulty. We have no opposition. How then can we monitor ourselves? Only through criticism and self-criticism, especially through open discussion".

There is, of course, not the slightest hint in these words that Gorbachev would want the party to abdicate its monopoly of power, but it is not difficult to surmise

that some of his more sanguine supporters found a cue here for voicing their doubts about the effectiveness of one-party rule.

A year after talking to the writers, Gorbachev found it necessary to defend the party against what we must assume were its detractors. No one, he said to a group of media men on June 14, 1987, should entertain the idea that "it is possible to get by without the party... If anyone thinks otherwise, he is, at the least, mistaken".

But who, we may ask, are those unnamed people who would want Soviet society to be conducted without a party, or by two competing "socialist" parties? We do not know, but signals reaching us from a section of the Soviet intellectual establishment are beginning to suggest an answer.

At a meeting with the Kom-somol aktiv of Moscow University on May 15, 1987 (a *samizdat* account of which has just reached the West through Radio Liberty), Anatoly Strelyani, a member of the editorial board of the literary monthly *Nor*, was asked from the floor: "Does the party need confrontation?" Strelyani said in reply that there were already two parties under the label "CPSU". And he went on: "The revolutionary nature of per-

estroika resides in the fact that the people should have freedom."

These are dangerous sentiments in a society that rests on two conflicting sources of legitimacy — Lenin's concept of rule by a single party of professional revolutionaries, and the teaching of Marx who ridiculed the very notion of a Marxist party and denied that he was a Marxist.

Whether Gorbachev proceeds solely under the banner of Lenin or a mixture of Marx and Lenin, his attempt to rebuild the Soviet system is now beginning to touch on what has so far been untouchable — the future of the Communist Party itself as a force outside the law, unaccountable to the people and at odds with the constitution.

That aspirations of a similar nature are now being voiced in Eastern Europe, notably Hungary, is a sign that Gorbachev's reforms are already in the process of activating or re-activating centrifugal tendencies not dissimilar from those with which Khrushchev had to wrestle in 1956 and Brezhnev in 1968. Gorbachev's *perestroika* may prove revolutionary in more ways than one.

© Times Newspapers, 1987

George Urban

The author was formerly director of Radio Free Europe.

Allan Massie

Shaking off the experts

A report from Edinburgh University's centre for education sociology, published on Monday, will probably be seized on by all those opposed to the plans of the Scottish Education Minister, Michael Forsyth, "to give parents more say in running schools".

It demonstrates that comprehensive schools in Scotland are now producing better examination results and narrowing the difference in attainment between social classes. The researchers also claim that the government's policies of giving parents the right to choose schools for their children and providing assisted places at independent schools "will inhibit, or even reverse, the processes of equalization and improvement".

Though they admit that other factors, such as the threat of unemployment, have contributed to this improvement, their researches represent a vote of confidence in the comprehensive system.

This is obviously a timely report for upholders of the status quo. If things are going well, why rock the boat? A successful pattern, they will say, is now threatened by Mr Forsyth. Others may, of course, instinctively question the report's findings, but we can perhaps for the moment disregard their doubts. It is more reasonable to accept the report as provisionally correct, and then ask whether it should give Mr Forsyth reason to pause.

He might reply that nothing in his proposals threatens the comprehensive system. He will set up boards for all schools with more than 100 pupils (perhaps an unnecessarily timid restriction), and these will have a majority of parent members. Initially these boards will have the following rights: to veto head teacher appointments; to raise questions on any aspect of the running of their schools; to control spending on books and materials; to be represented on appointments committees for senior staff; to control the use of school premises out of hours; and to liaise between school, parents and community.

They will receive an annual report from the head teacher, and be able to scrutinize the local authority's budget for the school. Eventually Mr Forsyth intends that they should have direct control over this, and be responsible for choosing all members of staff "without the involvement of local authority appointment committees," though local authorities would remain the employers of school staff.

It is the implications of these plans which perturb the critics. They would lead to autonomous schools and a shift of power from the professionals to amateurs. Inevitably — and I am sure this is his intention — they also represent a squeeze on local authorities. This government is constantly accused of centralizing authoritarianism and it is easy to interpret these proposals as another attack on local democracy.

however... Basil Boothroyd

Department of dead letters

The pillar boxes round here have had sacks over them. It seems a bit primitive for a modern, well-organized union. Still, these rural areas... I suppose you can't expect London ways, where I believe they have purpose-built clip-on to deny customers their eighteenpennyworth. A few really keen correspondents of mine, such as people I owed money, carried their mail to outlying districts. It was quite exciting, wondering who was writing from Raynes Park or Clapham, though a bit of a letdown when I found out.

Anyway, it's all over now, for the time being. I wouldn't have harked back to it if I hadn't come across, in my postage book, a document headed Certificate of Posting for Royal Mail Special Delivery, dated about the time when the Royal Mail wasn't delivering anything; or perhaps just before, because the men hadn't been round with the sacks then. I remember noticing letters poking out of the box's mouth outside the village PO and general novelties shop. I was glad I had to take mine inside, in order to speed it on its way by special delivery, and receive my certificate No K206214, duly bearing "Accepting Officer's Initials".

I said to the accepting officer that it was like Christmas: referring to the bursting box. She didn't say anything, but it's noisy in there with all the kids out of school now, yelling for Dolly Mixtures and model vintage motor cars. She probably didn't hear me, and I'm glad. It was the hottest day of July. If she'd failed to link the Christmas reference with the postal congestion it could have taken some explaining.

What could take more explaining, when I come to it, if I ever do come to it, and I've already left it a bit late, is the scale of my claim for the non-special delivery. Or special non-delivery, however you like to put it. This letter, after all, was just in a lightweight and perfectly ordinary 9½x6½ brown envelope. No lumps. Nothing to rattle. No money or jewellery, stamps, postal orders, gift vouchers, or anything else the Royal Mail won't pay out on, as itemized on the back of my Certificate K206214 ("For full details see the

Well, it depends what you mean by that. Mr Forsyth might argue that it is more democratic to leave the running of schools to elected representatives of the parents than to the regional authorities in which permanent officials may have more power on education committees than elected councillors.

His critics then express distrust of parents' ability to carry out the work he would assign to them. That is to say, the case against his plans rests on the proposition that the expert knows best: that local authority education officials have a better idea of what is good for children than parents have.

Now this is not a contemptible argument, for the experts may indeed be able to take a wider, and even more knowledgeable, view. But it is a contemptuous one. It reflects an assumption that pervades Scottish life: that people cannot be trusted to make the right judgement themselves, but must be guided and controlled by the experts.

Here, in brief, is what divides the Scottish establishment from the Tory party. The establishment will not trust the people to manage their own lives. It insists, with the utmost benevolence, that they are incompetent. So Scotland is run by a system of patronizing paternalism, and the most curious aspect of the case is that while the experts will not trust the people, the people, on the evidence of their votes in general elections, are still inclined to trust the experts.

No wonder, Mr Forsyth might reply: dependence breeds dependency. He would want them from this condition. Eventually he may envisage the exclusion of local authorities from any direct involvement in education, apart from a requirement to build and maintain schools, which would then be run in partnership between autonomous boards and the Scottish Education Department. But that is some distance away.

His proposals are not perfect. He doesn't seem fully to appreciate the need to have enduring local interests represented on school boards as well as parents. He should trust the teachers more, and leave staff appointments to the heads. But in general he is right, and that is why the question of comprehensives is a red herring. If people want comprehensives, they should have them. If they don't, then not.

Someone once said to Palmerston that the Greeks weren't fit for a constitution. He replied that the only way to make them fit was to give them one. Can anyone doubt that he was right? Only the experience of freedom fits people for it. The Scottish people have been in thrall to the experts for too long. Most of our problems stem from this dependency, this ingrained habit of looking upwards for support and guidance. But Mr Forsyth is prepared to trust the people themselves. He should be supported against the experts and their establishment.

Post Office Guide. It adds not, as it happens, a volume on my reference shelves, though I did once have one years ago, and treasured it for a caring paragraph about how to pack umbrellas. No, All I was sending was a few sheets of typewriting, of no interest to anyone, really, except an editor who needed them next morning, latest, otherwise he would have to go to press without them, and their highly topical nature would kill them stone dead by the time he went to press again. This made them wastepaper.

I don't know why this particular editor pays me £195 for typewriting of this kind — provided, of course, that he gets it on the Tuesday and not, in this case, by special delivery on the following Friday afternoon, at the Royal Mail speed fee of £1.80. But that's his going rate, and I know I have shocked you, friends, by flaunting it about in the open like that. Excuse me. But it will all have to go public in three or four years' time, when I've fought my claim through the European Court of Human Rights.

First, I should really take it to a lower court, namely my village sub-postmistress. I think she might be thrown into a flutter when she asked how much I was claiming and I told her £196.80, just for an ordinary 9½x6½ brown envelope. Even though I took my stand on the back of document K206214, and I quote. The amount of compensation paid will not exceed the market value... she could take the view, not herself being in the freelance journalist line, that I couldn't hope for more than the value of the paper.

Say 25p.

So I don't know. As I say, it's all somewhat in the past now. My early rage, and eagerness for justice, is waning. To pursue the thing would only eat up valuable writing time, and another £195 down the tubes as likely as not. Never mind that the back of K206214 further states that the whole business is "in all respects subject to the relevant statutory Scheme (the what?), and the Post Office assumes no contractual obligation." Oh, well, then.

صكرا بن الارصل



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THE FUTURE OF OWENISM

The scorched earth policy, in the form of an amendment denying the Owenites the use of the party's present name, was carried at Portsmouth by 60 per cent of the SDP conference. What does this mean for the future of British politics?

As yet, not much. It is bound to mean something eventually — but that something cannot at the moment be predicted or even guessed. All that is certain is that Mr Robert Maclean is about to conduct very long, very detailed and at times very acrimonious negotiations with the Liberals about the constitution of the new party.

It is an error to think that politics is a story or a game without an end simply because it goes on all the time. Instead, it is a series of stories, or games. Each of these can end. One of them did on June 11. Mrs Thatcher, by losing so few seats after having been in office for so long, checkmated her opponents that day.

They have no alternative but to wait for the opening of a new chapter or another game. While they wait, the more astute will find things to say which are more convincing to the electorate than what they were saying before. Such times of waiting are not unusual. Every now and then, a Prime Minister has demoralized his opponents, and caused them to fall out among themselves, by winning an election overwhelmingly after his party had already been in power for some time. Baldwin did it in 1935, Macmillan in 1959. The opponents have no alternative but to try to survive the fighting within their own side, and hope for some development which holds out the prospect of power, and thus unites them. After 1959, the development was economic trouble — modest by later standards, but damaging to the prestige of a Government which had benefited from the notion that people had never had it so good.

At present the poll tax is looked to by Mrs

Thatcher's opponents as the thing which, by getting her into trouble, will start a new game or story. But, in vesting their hope so obviously, they have already alerted the Government. A tax is more easily escaped from than economic trouble or a crisis in foreign affairs. So economic trouble, or a crisis in foreign affairs, it will have to be.

Dr Owen, patriot though he is, must hope for one or the other, or both. In doing so, he is in the same unenviable situation as all the rest of Mrs Thatcher's opponents, including Mr Kinnoch and the tormentor, Mr Steel. But his position looks like being weaker than theirs when the time comes to take advantage of any ill which might befall Mrs Thatcher.

Sixty per cent of his party is disappearing from under him. There remains a possibility that the merger terms will not satisfy the stickler Mr Maclean, who insisted in 1981 that a commitment to NATO and to the EEC should be written into the SDP constitution. Yesterday, surprisingly, the only issue he mentioned as a possible sticking point with the Liberals was civil nuclear power — something which much of the Liberal Party, including Mr Steel, is against.

Apart from that, Dr Owen can hope for a new Liberal leader with whom he might be able to form yet another alliance. He is said to have hopes of Mr Paddy Ashdown, unilateralist though Mr Ashdown until recently was. Or he can hope for the new merged party to do something which is in his eyes so left wing — such as going unilateralist — that it would free him from his present policy of not entering into any pre- or post-election pact with the Conservatives.

At present his position looks hopeless. Once the politics of post-June 11 truly starts, it may still be hopeless. But it has not started yet.

CARNIVAL OF RISK

Readers who live out of earshot of the drums along the Portobello Road may be impatient. Do Londoners who knowingly put their wallets, their persons and possibly also their lives at risk by their attendance at the Notting Hill Carnival deserve more than scant sympathy?

It is an understandable point of view. This event is no Bank Holiday fair writ large. Fairground theft on Highbury Fields or Hampstead Heath simply does not compare. An undercurrent of criminality has pulled at it for a decade or more. What happened on Monday was that those beguiling press photos of bobbies and revellers in recent years were shown to be an all too transient image. Anyone who lingered at the event on Monday night after dusk was tempting fate.

But mayhem in the streets, and murder, touches us all, Londoners and non-Londoners, black Britons and white. This year's Carnival thieving, and riot which good police work nipped in the bud, require questions to be answered: by the police; by all who spent public money on the event; and — most of all — by those who have taken to themselves the generic description "the community", signifying West London's Afro-Caribbean population.

Crime is not endemic to Caribbean-style carnivals. There is ample evidence from the original event, in Trinidad, and from festivities among West Indians in such places as Toronto to show that. What has happened is that this one London event has conditioned law-breaking in its midst. Bacchanalia is one thing; it may be unattractive to see hordes of people crushed together swigging cans of lager but it need not excite contumely.

Altogether different is the way in which the Carnival has become an occasion for street-corner intimidation (often of whites by blacks). "Colour" — meaning singing and dancing in the streets — has become an omnibus excuse. The event has been allowed to become a field day for the young lawless element in the London black population. But murder is no youthful peccadillo. Five hundred serious

crimes are not fun. It is time the complacency ceased.

The organizers of the event bear much responsibility. They provide too few marshals. Their carping yesterday at necessary police action is too common. They will not accept that one of the defining characteristics of a community is an ability to police its boundaries: if the lawless element at the Carnival does not belong, then community leaders owe it to their fellow blacks to co-operate much more positively with the police in expelling them. It is an unfortunate fact that leaders of the Afro-Caribbean population in London are ambiguous about the police and in their ambiguity they lay themselves open to exploitation by young black men living a life of crime.

Organizers of the Carnival yesterday were pleading impotence, claiming the scale of the event has got out of hand. If so, it is time for the public authorities, including the Metropolitan Police, to make some positive suggestions.

The pop sociologists will say the yuppies have moved in. The fact is that Notting Hill has changed. The disruptive event which takes place in its midst has not. It is time it did. A better balance needs to be struck between residents and visitors. There is no reason, beyond tradition, why the processions need follow a route through narrow and congested streets. Efforts have been made to spread them out, for example by moving bands and events to the nearby Scrubs Common: they should be doubled. Marshalling and policing large numbers of people on open ground could ensure a much safer event than this year's became.

It is time for a change of attitude on the part not just of the organizers but also of those commentators who batten on to the event to describe, as if they were anthropologists, such colourful pastimes as dipping and "draping" — picking pockets and physical intimidation by any other name. No civilized city can have need of such a great annual outburst of robbery and violence.

KEEPING COOL IN THE GULF

For a country which wants to bring the Gulf war to an end, Iraq is going an odd way about it. It raided Iranian shipping for the fourth day in succession yesterday.

Six weeks have now elapsed since the UN demanded an end to the seven years of fighting. The Iraqis assented at once, though on condition that the Iraqis did so too.

Since then Tehran's response has been evasive. It has not said "yes" and it has not said "no". But its tone has been more conciliatory than it used to be, thus keeping alive, if only just, the hope of at least an armistice in the Gulf. This week, the Iraqis are due to end their prevarication and reply.

After a lull in the fighting at sea, Iraq's sudden renewal of aggression would seem at best to be curiously timed. The official explanation from Baghdad is that the Iraqis had so far used the situation to their advantage. Independent sources estimate that the sudden relief from attack, has enabled the Iraqis to earn £15m a day from increasing exports of oil. This, according to Baghdad, has gone to boost Tehran's continuing war effort on land.

It is true that Tehran's response to all the peace initiatives so far, since hostilities began seven years ago this month, has done little to encourage much faith in their intentions. On the other hand, for the Iraqis to act thus, within days of an Iranian answer to the UN, would seem to make no diplomatic sense.

The conclusion one is drawn to is that the Iraqis want to provoke Iran into retaliation in kind. As Iraq's own oil exports are carried overland by pipeline through Turkey, the only practicable form of retaliation would be against Iraq's allies — like Kuwait. This means in effect, against the United States, under whose protective wing the Kuwaiti tankers sail.

An Iranian attack on any ship bearing the Stars and Stripes could lead to confrontation

with American warships in the Gulf. This could effectively project the United States into the front line, thus presumably lifting some pressure from Iraq — and allowing it, at worst, some breathing time.

Whether Iraq would benefit from this in the long-term is very questionable. While it would internationalise the conflict in a way which the Iraqis have long sought, it would prolong a war which Baghdad would like to end.

The Iraqis have no doubt calculated that the big powers could not contemplate an Iranian victory in the Gulf. But this does not mean that either Iran or the United States would react in the manner predicted for them. So far Iranian reprisals have been comparatively restrained. They have played a waiting game for so long now that they cannot be relied upon to panic. The Americans meanwhile are very sensitive to the charge that their Gulf policy is mistaken. Can the White House afford to be so easily drawn into an escalating conflict in the region? It is certainly hard to see Britain, which also has warships there, allowing itself to become so much involved.

The Americans may still have cause to regret their brusque rejection of the Soviet offer of a joint approach in the Gulf, however insincere it was. Of the Security Council's five permanent powers, Moscow has most influence over Iraq. If an arms embargo has to be introduced with equal effect on both participants, Moscow's cooperation might be most crucial.

Meanwhile all possible pressure must be brought on the Iraqis to match their actions to the words — which confirm their dedication to the search for peace. If the Iraqis can at the same time be persuaded to continue their restraint, there must still be a chance that the UN peace initiative will bear fruit. It is a time for cool heads and strong nerves

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Balliol as a centre of excellence

From the Master of Balliol College, Oxford

Sir, Balliol's seventeenth place in this year's Norrington table was a great disappointment to the fellows of the college and an important item of tutorial business for the coming year will be to ensure that the college's examination performance returns to its customary level. However, you are rash to use this year's finals results to question whether Balliol continues to be a centre of excellence within Oxford (leading article, July 30).

In this year other indicators of performance show Balliol living up to its traditional reputation in teaching and research. In the first public examinations, Balliol had 40 candidates in those subjects where classes are awarded (English, engineering, mathematics, physics, classics, computation). Of these 40 candidates 13, or nearly one third, received first-class marks. At the annual meeting of the British Academy in July, from the whole United Kingdom 25 scholars were chosen for election. Of these no less than three were current fellows of Balliol.

I am not one of those who regard performance in the Norrington table as a matter to be treated lightly. It is an important indicator of academic performance, and a college is foolish if it does not draw lessons from the ranking it provides. I salute the achievement of those colleges which consistently perform well in the table. But it is imperfect and incomplete as a performance indicator.

As an indicator it is imperfect, because rank orderings between colleges are very sensitive to small changes in results, can be affected even by the balance of subjects. For instance, last year the "average classicist" in the university scored 61 per cent of his Norrington table maximum (equivalent to the score of the ninth college in the table) while the "average engineer" scored 54.4 per cent (equivalent to the 23rd college on the list).

As an indicator it is incomplete because it ranks colleges on the basis of performance of their undergraduates only. But colleges also have an important part to play in the education of graduate students, and in Balliol about one

third of our junior members are reading for graduate degrees.

You imply that this year's Norrington results suggest that Balliol is indifferent to academic excellence in science. In fact this year's science ranking is an illustration of the capricious way in which Norrington scores can fluctuate.

Last year, in mathematics, physics, chemistry (and their joint schools) Balliol students scored 70 per cent of the Norrington maximum, far ahead of the overall percentage of 65.3 per cent scored by the top college in this year's league table. In science subjects as a whole, Balliol scored 60.8 per cent of the maximum compared with the Oxford University average of 57.9 per cent in those subjects.

The most disappointing feature of this year's results, from a Balliol point of view, has not been the Norrington ranking, but the uncharacteristically low percentage of firsts. But here again it would be rash to discern a trend. Last year 21 per cent of Balliol candidates won firsts in finals, against a university-wide average of 15.9 per cent; in the previous five years (1981-5) Balliol obtained 20.7 per cent firsts while the university as a whole gained only 13.3 per cent.

This creditable performance was exhibited in science as well as in arts subjects. During the period 1981-85 (the last years before the splitting of the second class) 20.5 per cent of Balliol students gained firsts in chemistry, compared with 17.8 for the university as a whole.

Balliol's firsts in other subjects were as follows (university figures in brackets): biological sciences, 9.4 per cent (10.4); mathematics, 35.1 (18.2); physics, 20.8 (10.7); engineering 25.6 (15.9).

There is one point in your leader which is very well taken. The general standard of academic performance by the students at Oxford University has increased dramatically over the last years. If it is a consequence of this that a single college no longer stands out in its former pre-eminence, only the basest form of parochial pride could make one regret the change. Yours sincerely, ANTHONY KENNY, Balliol College, Oxford, August 25.

Art treasures Bill

From Mr Hugh Leggatt

Sir, The Times has performed a great service by revealing (report, August 31) the Government's intention to introduce a Bill which would enable the trustees of the National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery and Tate Gallery to sell the nationally-owned works of art which they hold on behalf of us all.

Although the trustees of these institutions are being "asked to comment", I wonder what members of the National Art Collections Fund (who have contributed so generously to all three galleries to help buy art treasures) will think of the Government's proposals?

For my part, as a member of the Museums and Galleries Commission,

appointed by the Prime Minister to advise Government, I would if consulted — counsel leading rather than selling.

There are many local authority and independent museums deprived of pictures which they can no longer afford to buy, and at the same time, with the notable exception of the National Gallery, so many paintings owned by the public which remain in store and could be displayed throughout the country.

Apart from the educational and cultural advantages of such a policy there would be the obvious additional benefit for the tourist industry. Yours faithfully, HUGH LEGGATT, Leggatt Brothers, Fine Art Dealers, 17 Duke Street, St James's, SW1.

Drunken drivers

From Sir Thomas Scrivenor

Sir, With reference to the article (August 25) "Bringing the drunken driver to book", one aspect of this problem, which has received less attention than it deserves is that the number of road casualties today is roughly the same as it was 50 years ago when the number of vehicles on the road was one tenth of the number now, when there were no robots, white lines, Casseys, roundabouts or pedestrian crossings.

This is surely remarkable evidence

Lines of defence

From Mr J. L. Francis

Sir, Attempts to telephone people in business, or in the professions, are increasingly blocked by tales of their being "in a meeting".

If such people must protect themselves from their callers, can they not at least devise more attractive and imaginative lines of defence? Yours faithfully, J. L. FRANCIS, 3 Motley Place, Hungerford, Berkshire.

Wartime resistance

From Miss Nora Beloff

Sir, Veteran Chetniks who joined the resistance movement under Draza Mihailovic during the last war are justifiably angered by the impression created by Mr Tom Bower (Spectrum, August 20) that they, like the Ustasas (Croat equivalent of the German SS), were collaborators.

Of the 11,700 men who may have called themselves Chetniks interned at the Rimini camp, there may well have been those who used the epithet (originating in the nineteenth century to describe resistors against the Turkish rulers) to cover banditry or service to the Axis forces.

But in the West the word is commonly identified with members of Mihailovic's home army who, as we now know, were the first volunteers in occupied Europe to initiate guerrilla war. Their loyalty to the Allied cause has been vividly depicted by a former British officer, Michael Lees, in his book, *Special Operations: Executed*, published last year.

Twenty-five thousand of these, under Mihailovic's commander, M. Danjanovic, escaped to the

West, were incorporated into the Allied forces and used for guard duties until 1947, when they were taken to the displaced persons camp at Munster and dispersed.

Whereas Mr Bower is absolutely right in telling us that Sir Fitzroy Maclean was "on very good terms with Tito", this in itself should surely have debauched him from any role in deciding who should be handed back to the communist-led partisans. We now have fully documented accounts of the indiscriminate mass slaughter, perpetrated without any pretence of trial against the many thousands of Yugoslavs repatriated from Klagfurt.

In my book, *Tito's Flawed Legacy*, I cite a number of incidents, based on wartime records, showing that Maclean's credulity in his dealings with Tito reached tragicomic levels. Paraphrasing Tito's HQ, he saw only what Tito wanted him to, and, as he was never allowed to travel without partisan minders, he was easily persuaded that the communist-led troops were models of liberty-loving tolerance.

It was Maclean who sent the dispatches persuading Churchill to compel young King Peter to dump Mihailovic, on the unrealistic

Plight of nurses studying for degrees

From Dr Peter Swann

Sir, None of the letters complaining of the shortage of highly skilled nurses (August 10, 12, 18) has commented on one cause of the problem: the scandalous treatment of students taking nursing degrees in universities and polytechnics.

Most student nurses take the traditional three-year, hospital-based courses. These have been widely criticized and a small but growing proportion of young people entering nursing are taking degree courses.

To register as nurses, and to reach the academic standard of a degree, the course is four years, with each year having 42 working weeks, in contrast to the 25 to 30 weeks of an academic year.

The students spend as many hours on the wards as students on traditional courses, but while those on traditional courses are paid over £4,500, those on degree courses are paid only £2,290. Furthermore, this £2,290 is a higher education mandatory award, so their parents have to contribute to it. The contribution is for four years.

Put bluntly, we expect these dedicated young people to care for the senile, the incontinent, the mutilated and the dying for less than £1 an hour, part of which is paid by their parents. It is hardly

surprising that, ground down by the demands of the job and the penalty that goes with it, many students fail to complete the course. No doubt many more would follow them if local authorities would allow them to transfer their grants to other courses.

I am sure that no member of the public supports this disgraceful state of affairs. There can be no objection to students having a grant for the university terms, and no objection to their parents contributing to it, but every student nurse on the wards should be paid the same.

There is no one to speak for these dedicated students. The Royal College of Nursing tells me they will not take their part unless they become members — an impossible condition, because each student would have to forgo a week's wages to pay the RCN subscription.

If there is to be change, then the public, the newspapers and decent MPs on both sides of the House will have to bring it about. It must be done.

Yours faithfully, PETER SWANN, Beechcroft, Scots Hill, Outwood, Surrey, August 19.

ON THIS DAY

SEPTEMBER 2 1939

In the first four days of the evacuation, which started on September 1 as a precaution against possible air raids, 1.5 million individuals were moved to new homes up to 100 miles from their own; they included 750,000 unaccompanied children, 542,000 mothers and young children, and 12,000 expectant mothers

THE CHILDREN MOVE OFF

EVACUATION OF 500,000

TRUMPH OF PLANNING

FROM OUR CIVIL DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

Nearly half a million children and teachers have been moved by dusk last night from the dangerous and congested industrial districts of the country. The evacuation was a triumph of preparation, organisation, and discipline. Last night children were settling down in country homes to new surroundings, and what may prove a great and revealing adventure.

Everywhere reports spoke of the outrage with which parents and children parted and partings became harder as the day's news became worse. Most of the children looked calm and determined, some of them excited and delighted by the prospect of the first country or seaside holiday they had ever known. In London no party knew its destination. In some provincial centres teachers had already made contact with future homes and could tell children what awaited them.

BUCKETS AND SPADES

Time-tables everywhere worked out perfectly. There was no hurry or confusion. Police, special constables, porters, and spades were at the station to assist the teachers. At the receiving stations first-aid, sanitary, and canteen provision had been made, and the incoming children drew rations for 48 hours. At some London stations children were leaving at the rate of 6,000 or more an hour. In Glasgow, it was reckoned, 75,000 children had left for the Highlands by tea-time. From Southampton 16,000 had left by the early afternoon, and several thousands of children from Dagenham and Thameside travelled by pleasure steamers to Yarmouth and other seaside towns.

Lancashire some parties were bound for the seaside, too, with buckets and spades. Refugees from Leeds were making for Lincolnshire and Wiltshire, while those of East and Western London were scattering over Buckinghamshire, Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire. From Chatham and neighbourhood children were leaving by bus for rural East Kent, and of 6,000 children who arrived in Windsor from London some went to billets on the royal estates.

SMOOTH RUNNING

Reports coming into the Ministry of Health, County Hall, and the railway centres all told the same story of smooth running and quiet success. Officials from the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education were out early in the morning to watch schools assembling and marching to bus and Underground points. In the reception areas inspectors of schools were watching the little touches being put to the arrangements made with local education authorities for extra books, places, and food. It was too early last night to get any general impression of the meetings between guests and hosts, but billeting officers were confident that homes had been well chosen.

Yesterday the main effort was to remove school children, whose reception and school arrangements would need much more time in the reception areas. To-day not only school children but mothers with infants, expectant mothers, cripples, and the blind will be leaving. Late yesterday afternoon efforts were being made to hasten a little the carrying out of the evacuation programme, and it is possible that the whole plans will have been carried out much sooner than was generally expected. In more than one evacuation area there was a last-minute rush of mothers to register as the news from Europe grew worse; but the transport services allow for this and no one who wants to be evacuated is likely to be refused.

Second-hand letters

From Mr Robert H. Foster

Sir, Mr C. A. Crofts (August 25) seems not to understand that from time to time the originator of a letter is unavailable to sign it, and it would often be more discourteous to the addressee if the letter were to wait, in some cases for a considerable period of time, until he were able to sign it.

Mr Crofts is himself discourteous to many secretaries: I have every confidence that a letter signed by my secretary would be as accurate as one signed by me. Yours faithfully, ROBERT H. FOSTER, Winterburn Grange, Near Skipton, North Yorkshire, August 25.

Rate for the job

From Mr and Mrs Terry Malone

Sir, Perhaps Father Peter McGuire's careers guide (August 27), which advised "Roman Catholic priesthood: salary negligible, prospects nil," should have added, "fringe benefits out of this world". Yours faithfully, TERRY MALONE, ANNE MALONE, 7 Hillside Gardens, Barnet, Hertfordshire, August 27.

tic ground that this was "the only, repeat only, chance for the monarchy".

Further, it was Maclean who informed the Allied commanders that "Tito's readiness to accept our guidance and adjust his strategy to our plans will be in direct proportion to the amount of material help we are able to give him."

General Wilson's account of operations in Yugoslavia demonstrates that this was exactly the opposite of what happened.

Sincerely, NORA BELOFF, 11 Belsize Road, NW6, August 28.

Early closing

From Mrs Esme M. Kite

Sir, Upon receiving a model post office as a present, my granddaughters, aged seven and nine, opened up for business, set the clock at 9 am and immediately proceeded to erect "ill closed" notices.

Is this a sign of the times?

Yours, ESMÉ M. KITE, 17 Mellis Road, Yaxley, Eye, Suffolk.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 1: The Duke of York, Patron of the Jubilee Singing Trust, accompanied by The Duchess of York, this evening sailed on the STS Lord Nelson (Captain John Fisher) from Greenwich to London Bridge City Pier.

Their Royal Highnesses subsequently attended a reception at Cotons Atrium, London Bridge City.

The Duke and Duchess of

York travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

Miss Helen Hughes and Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer were in attendance.

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 1: The Prince Edward, Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Project '87, this evening attended a reception and dinner in the City Chambers, Glasgow.

His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Glasgow (Mr Robert Gray, the Right Hon the Lord Provost).

Birthdays today

Professor C.B. Allsopp, physicist, 83; Kings Lady, Wiltshire, sociologist, 53; Sir Peter Boon, former chairman, Hoover, 71; Mrs Heather Brigstocke, high mistress, St Paul's Girls' School, 58; Professor Barbara Clayton, pathologist, 65; Mr Jimmy Connors, tennis player, 35; Professor David Daiches, former Professor of English, 75; Sir Arthur Drew, chairman, Ancient Monuments Advisory Committee, 75; Sir Oliver Forster, diplomat, 62; Sir Edward Goschen, former, deputy chairman, Stock Exchange Council, 74; Mr Michael Hastings, playwright, 49; Air P.B. Lucas, former fighter pilot and golfer, 72; Sir Patrick Moberly, diplomat, 59; Lord Paget of Northampton, QC, 79; Sir Alexander Roden, former chairman, United Dominions Trust, 80; Mr Patrick Sheehy, chairman, BAT Industries, 57; Viscount Simon, 85; Mr Victor Spinetti, actor, 54; Professor George Templeton Smith, 86; the Right Rev David Young, Bishop of Ripon, 56.

Coachmakers' and Coach Harness Makers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Coachmakers' and Coach Harness Makers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr David L. Smith; Senior Warden, Mr Brian Leslie Maddock; Brew, Renter Warden, Mr George Anthony Heworth; Junior Warden, Mr Gerald Boxall.

Irish Hotel and Catering Institute

The Irish Hotel and Catering Institute will host a London dinner for Irish hotel and catering managers working in Britain on Thursday, August 28, 1988, at 7.30 pm. Contact Ms Cynthia FitzPatrick, 11 Herbert Street, Dublin 2. (Telephone Dublin 615161) for further details.

St George's School, Ascot

Boards return to St George's School, Ascot, for Autumn Term on September 8, new girls on September 9, and term will end on December 12. The head girl will be Sophie Dreyer. The new chapel will be dedicated by the Bishop of Reading on September 30, after which the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire will open the new building complex. There will be 280 girls in the school. Confirmation will be on November 14, conducted by the Bishop of Reading. The school service will be at Windsor Parish Church on December 12. Old girls' day will be on Saturday, September 19, at 2 pm with a buffet lunch at 12 for 12.30 pm for all girls at school between 1960 and 1969. Please contact the school secretary, if you wish to attend.

Latest wills

Dorothea Louise, Viscountess Head, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, widow of the 1st Viscount Head, former Secretary of State for War, Minister of Defence, and High Commissioner in both Nigeria and Malaysia, and daughter of the 9th Earl of Shaftesbury, left estate valued at £521,193 net.

Sir Philip Crawford Vickery, of London SW7, formerly of the Indian Police and among the last survivors of those on duty at the Delhi Durbar of 1911 attended by the King Emperor George V, left estate valued at £612,768 net.

Mr Harold Jenner Beard, of Orshott, Surrey, left estate valued at £518,217 net.

Mr Arthur Amos Dickens, of Newton Longville, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £262,635 net.

Dr George Joseph Farnham, of London SW7, Director of the National Gallery of Ireland, left estate valued at £264,322 net.

Mr Albert Richard Heber Marchant, of Tudeham, Newbury, Berkshire, left estate valued at £490,274 net.

Mr Dennis Morgan, of Battle-down, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £23,398 net.

Mr Bertam Leslie Talbot, of Sandhurst, Berkshire, left estate valued at £433,929 net.

Mr Peter Kingsley Woods, of Rushden, Northamptonshire, left estate valued at £396,112 net.

Memorial service

A service of remembrance and thanksgiving for the life of Eric Henry Hart, will be held at St Michael and All Angels Church, Cornwood, on Friday, September 11, at 3.30 pm.

Felsted School

Autumn Term at Felsted School begins today. Mr D.R. Everett succeeds Mr N.S. Hinde as Headmaster of Montgomery's, J.R. Drew (Elwyn) is head of school. Lord Fitz will deliver the Lord Butler of Saffron Walden lecture on November 19. There will be an Old Felstedian reunion for those at Felsted between 1945 and 1955 on September 26, at the school. A centenary commemorative service for the Felsted School mission will be held at the Ascension Church, Victoria Dock, E16, on October 11, at 4 pm. Half term is from October 17 to November 1, and term ends on December 19.

Uppingham School

Mr D.S.W. Lee took over the chairmanship of the Governing Body of Uppingham School from Colonel G.L. Aspell on September 1, 1987. Mr D.C. Samworth remains vice-chairman.

To the man who gave everything



The memorial to John Fordham was unveiled by Lord Denning with Mr Michael Winner (Photograph: John Rogers)

The widow and three children of a policeman killed on undercover duty watched a moving ceremony yesterday as a memorial was unveiled in his honour.

Detective Constable John Fordham was stabbed to death during a police surveillance operation over the £26 million Brink's Mat bullion robbery two years ago.

Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, paid tribute yesterday to Mr Fordham and said he had paid the ultimate sacrifice in his duty.

Mr Fordham's wife Anna, dwarfed by the crowds of police officers at the ceremony, remained composed but other relatives broke down in tears.

Mrs Thatcher sent a wreath

Lord Denning unveils memorial to detective

with the tribute: "In honour of John Fordham for his devotion and service. We sorrow with his family and friends", and Mr Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan Police commissioner, said it was right that people should mourn and feel anger at his death.

The detective would be remembered for his "fortitude, his calmness and his courage", he said. "This memorial will be a constant reminder of what John stood for and the ultimate sacrifice he was called upon to make."

"As the years pass, we and the generations to follow will

be reminded that on January 26, 1985, a very special man, one who rightly cherished ordinary hopes and ambitions, gave all he could in the search for a society free from crime."

Detective Constable Fordham, aged 45, was killed to death while police were carrying out an undercover operation on the luxury Kent home of Kenneth Noye - later jailed for 14 years for his part in the bullion robbery.

Noye, aged 40, was cleared of murdering Mr Fordham after insisting he had acted in self-defence believing the camouflage-dressed detective

was a potentially violent

homicide.

The engraved 32-inch red granite monument has been placed on the green in West Kingsdown, Kent, near where the detective was killed.

It is the sixth memorial to be erected by the Police Memorial Trust, founded in 1984 by Mr Michael Winner, the film director, to commemorate police officers killed on duty.

Mr Winner said society owed police officers who have died on duty - including PC Roger Brereton during the Hungerford shootings - their continued gratitude.

The memorial was a

"permanent reminder that a brave man paid with his life in the course of his service to us all", he said.

Science report

Burying the hatchet — by computer

By Robert Matthews

One of the major goals of computer science is to build a machine intelligent enough to pass the Turing test, devised in the 1940s by the British mathematician Alan Turing, one of the pioneers of computer science.

He believed that by the 1990s it might be possible to build a computer so sophisticated that it would be indistinguishable from a human being.

A key difficulty preventing today's computers from passing this test is the way in which they deal with language. Many can respond to simple questions, but these must be posed according to strict rules, and use words within a fixed vocabulary.

By studying how humans learn a foreign language, a computer scientist at the Schematized R&D centre of General Electric in the US has devised a program enabling a

computer to cope even with idiomatic language.

The program, called RINA, is claimed to be the first of its kind to allow a computer to learn new phrases from experience.

Dr Uri Zernik, the inventor of RINA, says that the traditional approach to language processing by computer is too restrictive: "It isn't possible to explain manually to the computer how hundreds of thousands of words, phrases and idioms can be used grammatically in a huge variety of situations."

To overcome this, Dr Zernik has built what he calls a "dynamic lexicon" into RINA, which is capable of being added to by the computer as it gains experience, just as a human does.

Entries in the lexicon are entire phrases rather than single words, and include idioms. The phrases are arranged in a hierarchy ranging

from the specific to the more general, and includes rules of grammar. Linking everything together are algorithms devised by Dr Zernik which tell the computer how to use the lexicon, and how to add new knowledge to it.

A significant advantage of this approach is that it gives the computer the ability to cope with incomplete knowledge by using the hierarchy, the computer can use general phrases to fill in for missing specific ones.

A computer using RINA learns through trial and error, sometimes taking more than one guess to understand what is meant by the human inquirer.

For example, during one experiment Dr Zernik asked the computer to interpret the phrase "In 1977 Israel and Egypt buried the hatchet". Not having met the idiom "bury the hatchet" before, the computer responded with "The nations buried a knife under the ground".

The computer was then

given the further information that "Israel and Egypt were involved in a long conflict. In 1977 they signed a peace agreement". The machine then deduced that "bury the hatchet" means "to end a dispute". On being asked to reinterpret the original statement, it correctly responded with "They buried the hatchet; they terminated the conflict".

This new phrase was then automatically stored in RINA's lexicon. Later, the computer was asked to interpret the phrase "Doug buried the hatchet with his wife", to which it responded "He terminated a dispute with her".

After a good grounding in conversation, a computer using RINA is much more likely to pass the Turing test than machines using the traditional approach. However, Dr Zernik admits that even RINA cannot cope with some idioms; apparently, it can see neither rhyme nor reason in the phrase "to kick the bucket".

OBITUARY

MR W. W. SIMPSON

Nurturing understanding between Christian and Jew

Mr W. W. (Bill) Simpson, OBE, who died on August 29, at the age of 80, lived a life devoted to improving Christian/Jewish understanding and combating racial and religious prejudice.

But he cast his net wider. He was a man of wide humanitarian concern, working with the disabled and with displaced children from other lands. He was, too, a committed pacifist.

William Wynn Simpson was born on July 11, 1907. He was educated at King Edward VI Grammar School, Birmingham; Birmingham University; and at Wesley House and Fitzwilliam House, Cambridge.

He was ordained to the Methodist ministry in 1929 and became assistant minister at the Lysian Mission, London, before being attached to the Oxford Circuit.

In 1933 the Methodist Church encouraged his interest in Judaism and he spent a few years at Jews' College, London, studying contemporary Jewish problems.

His interest had, however, been nurtured at an even earlier age. As a schoolboy he was conscious of Jewish boys who felt out of place, and he recalled how, during a mock assembly of the League of Nations, he was entrusted with the task of speaking for the Mandate of Palestine.

In 1935 Simpson returned to the active ministry at Amhurst Park, north London, where he remained for the next three years. At this time he was becoming increasingly involved with Jewish refugees coming out of Nazi Germany, and he was asked to organize an appeal for them.

From this emerged, in 1938, the Christian Council for Refugees with Simpson as its secretary. In that same year appeared his book *Youth and Antisemitism*.

He then became a prime mover in establishing a more permanent body. His efforts bore fruit in 1942 with the setting up of the Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) which enjoyed the support of church leaders of all persuasions.

Simpson was made its first

secretary, and retained the post for over thirty years, until 1974. The improvement of Christian/Jewish understanding was his vocation, and one which he carried out with exceptional success.

In 1947 the CCJ held its first European conference at Seelischberg, Switzerland, from which came the "Ten Points of Seelischberg".

Simpson did much reconciling work. He visited the Holy Land many times and had an intimate knowledge of Jewish customs.

He was also a member of the executive committee of the National and London Councils of Social Service, and Chairman of the Christian Organizations Committee of the United Nations Association.

Soon after retiring from the secretaryship of the CCJ he was made honorary chairman of the International Council of Christians and Jews and, since 1981, served as its hon. life vice-president. He remained active in its work until the end, and last month spoke at its 40th conference in Switzerland.

He was also vice-president of the Greater London Association for the Disabled; and for many years worked among refugee children at the Pestalozzi Children's Village near Battle, in Sussex.

His published works brought to a wider audience developing Christian attitudes towards Judaism. These included *Jewish Prayer and Worship* (1965); *Mini-Commentary on Pentateuch* (1969); *Jerusalem Bible* (1969); *Light and Rejoicing: A Christian's Understanding of Jewish Worship* (1976).

An earlier work, written with A. I. Polack, was *Jesus in the Background of History* (1957). Polack was a Jew, and the production of such a joint work was a testimony to the work of the CCJ.

Simpson was an impressive-looking man who carried himself well. In later years he sported a shock of white, curly hair beneath which his cherubic face lit up when he smiled.

In later life he resigned from the Methodist Church.

MR M. M. REESE

Mr M. M. Reese, who died on August 29, at the age of 77, had three distinctive careers as teacher, author and sports journalist.

Max Meredith Reese was born at Epsom on August 11, 1910. From Hanbury he won an exhibition to Merton College, Oxford, taking a First in modern history in 1931 and playing cricket for the Authentics.

He taught at King Edward's, Birmingham, The Ley, Cambridge, and, from 1938 to 1949, at Wellington College - interrupted by war-service in the Intelligence Corps. At Wellington he was regarded as a superb teacher of history, and as a house tutor who blended the pursuit of culture with athleticism.

He also found time to produce and act in amateur theatricals and to write a textbook, *The Tudors and Stuarts* (1940), which, for over forty years, was a standard for generations of sixth formers.

He nevertheless found schoolmastering a constraint and left Wellington briefly to manage a country club and to write more extensively.

A love of Shakespeare found expression in *The Cease of Majesty* (1963), a study of the history plays, which was

widely used in universities in the United States.

He edited an edition of *Elizabethan Romanic Verse* (1968) and of Gibbon's *Autobiography* (1971). The *Puritan Impulse* (1975) was a perceptive study of that movement's wide impact on contemporary society.

More unusual was *The Royal Office of Master of the Horse* (1976), to which he nevertheless brought all his scholarship and elegant wit.

Reese also contributed pieces to the *Dictionary of National Biography*; was a chief examiner for three GCE Boards; and a publisher's reader who brought to prominence, among others, the novelist Colin Dexter.

Reese regularly reported on cricket and soccer for the Sunday press, acquiring a very early age, and retaining a devotion to soccer and dislike of rugby.

He was a convivial man of considerable presence, appreciative of good wine and beer, a stern critic of academic slovenliness, intolerant of duplicity and humbug, and a tireless and self-demanding worker.

His wife, Clare Campbell, whom he married in 1950, survives him with their two sons.

Archaeology

Residence and ritual in the Iron Age

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

Patterns of Iron Age landscape division, residence and ritual have emerged in the nineteenth season of excavations at the Danebury hillfort, near Andover, Hampshire.

As a result, both the economy and the organisation of late pre-Roman southern England are becoming better understood, and the project is about to move into a new phase which will place the Danebury work in a regional context.

This year's work has concentrated on two areas of the hilltop site, one inside the ramparts and the other at the entrance.

On the inside about half the total area of the hillfort has now been completely excavated, according to Professor Barry Cunliffe of Oxford University, who has directed the project from the beginning.

The excavation overlaps the one carried out last year (*The Times*, August 26, 1986), and has uncovered a sequence of rampart construction and subsequent occupation beginning in the sixth century BC. Some two metres' depth (more than six feet) of earth and chalk was quarried from the fort interior to construct the rampart, where Professor Cunliffe has elucidated three major phases of defensive construction.

In the quarry hollows thus created he has found a deep succession of occupation deposits. Initially four- and six-post buildings were erected,

then around 200 BC, as the hollows filled up, round houses were constructed in the lee of the rampart.

Adjacent to each house was a yard area, and when the houses decayed it was often rebuilt over the yard, with its former site becoming open in turn. Together with the periodic spreading of clean deposit, this seems to have been an attempt to sterilise the site and prevent it from becoming too smelly.

Professor Cunliffe sees each of the quarry hollow sequences as discrete, and forming the basis for subsequent property divisions within Danebury.

Another example of patterning has emerged in the huge number of storage pits: many have an animal skull or carcass at the base, but others are empty.

Professor Cunliffe now believes that "something was deposited in every pit. We have found what is archaeologically recoverable, but the offering of a bundle of skins or a bale of wool would not be visible to the excavator."

He suggests that the offerings were a propitiation of the earth deities, before or after the successful storage of grain in the pits, which could be seen as entering the underworld.

Outside the hillfort this year's other excavations have been plying to make sense of the pattern of linear earthworks that fan out from the

eastern entrance of Danebury. An outer enclosure round the hillfort is thought to have been a cattle corral, and the linear structures part of a system of funneling stock into it from the fields.

The longest of the linear features has been traced for between four and five kilometres, nearly three miles, and the excavation shows it to consist of two parallel ditches some three metres (about 10 feet) apart, with a low bank between them.

Part of the Iron Age landscape has been preserved by the bank, and the seeds and snails in it will give evidence of the local environment before the time of Christ.

Professor Cunliffe suggests that the pattern of erosion on the north of the linear ditches is the result of ploughing, and that this site was arable while the area to the south was used for grazing.

Two scatters of Iron Age coins, all of the "small change" type, give credence to the suggestion that periodic fairs were held outside Danebury. Such meets would make the hillfort not just a defensive enclosure, but a natural central place in the landscape and a focus for social gatherings.

Over the next few years Professor Cunliffe hopes to explore the place of the Danebury community in the social landscape of late Iron Age Britain.

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Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Howard, prison reformer, London, 1726; Giovanni Verga, writer, Catania, Sicily, 1840.

DEATHS: Thomas Telford, road, bridge and canal builder, London, 1834; Henri Rousseau, painter, Paris, 1910; Henry Lawson, writer, Abbotsford, New South Wales, 1932; Tancred Borenius, art historian, Salisbury, 1968; J.R.R. Tolkien, philologist and author of *The Lord of the Rings*, Bournemouth, 1973.

The Great Fire of London began, 1666.

Reception

West India Committee
Mr David Suratar, Chairman of the West India Committee, presided at a reception held last night at the Chesterfield Hotel, London, for the leaders of the political parties of the Turks and Cocos Islands.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.A.J.W. Buxton and Miss R.E.J. Jarrold
The engagement is announced between Nigel, elder son of Professor and Mrs J.N. Buxton, Bull's Hall, Yaxley, Suffolk, and Rona, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Podd, of Buxton Avenue, Gorleston-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Mr J. Donner and Miss L. Childs
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Aaron Donner, of Bay Shore, Long Island, New York, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Austin Childs, of Newcastle, Staffordshire.

Mr P.J. English and Miss R.M. Gopsill
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mrs A.P. English, of Swansea, and Rachel, elder daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs E. Gopsill, of Whittington, Staffordshire.

Mr P.J. Martin and Miss J.P. Sharp
The engagement is announced between John, son of the late Mr W.R. Martin and of Mrs M. Martin, of Aughton, Lancashire, and Jennie, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.G. Sharp, of St Mawes, Cornwall.

New College, Oxford

The New College Society is revising its address book. Former members of the college who are uncertain whether the college has his or her current address are asked to send it to the bursar as soon as possible.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, Patron of the British Olympic Medical Trust, will open the British Olympic Medical Centre at Northwick Park, Harrow, at 11.00 am, and as President of the Royal Yachting Association, will attend the council meeting at the Royal Thames Yacht Club at 4.30.

Princess Alexandra will open the extension to the studios of Grampian Television, at Queen's Cross, Aberdeen, at 3.30.

Marriage

Mr J.C. Hickman and Miss E.J. McClean
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Jennifer Hickman, of Badgers', Mathon, near Malvern, Worcestershire, and Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Gwilym McClean, of Gilros, Clifton Road, Rugby.

Mr J.H. Proadlock and Miss J.C. Brooks
The engagement is announced between James Hamilton, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Proadlock, of 17 Sloane Court West, London, SW3, and Joanne Giannetta, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Johnnie Brooks, of The Manor House, Boughton Aluph, Ashford, Kent.

Mr M.R. Heath and Mrs L.R. Masefield
The marriage took place in London, on Tuesday, September 1, between Mr Michael Robert Heath, son of Mr George Heath, of Brighton, and Mrs Lucinda Rosslyn Masefield, daughter of Mr Frank Instone, of Tunbridge Wells, and Mrs Frank Instone, of London.

THE ARTS

Flat of foot

Apart from the odd over-rolled "r" from Mireille and Mat-bien and that dirge about Madame Thatcher, modern French popular music has not greatly troubled our national consciousness. As *Pretorius* (ITV) showed, producers still feel obliged to crank up "La Vie en rose" and a full squeeze of accordion music to denote anything French — even though this two-hour Thames detective story was set in Belgium.

"I like the song — they don't write them any more," said Inspector Pretorius (Clive Wood) of another old favourite. I thought they didn't write them any more like *Pretorius*, but evidently the foreign setting allowed for some enjoyable old chestnut, not to say

TELEVISION

the odd doddery canard, denied our television *Old Bill*. The detective drank and drove throughout, talked of "queers" (the villain was a Brugge "beat brief") and thus of "snot" (cocaine). At least with her, the kids knew the name of the game. (If only they still did.) They even foamed a burglar-alarm into silence as though they had just seen *Riffi*.

Britons playing Belges necessarily led to some verbal confusion, though "I trod on his amour propre" was perhaps an avoidable *mélange*. And there was an unfashionable amount of explaining: about an old Flemish tale about a fox, Nostradamus, the tricks of the drag trade. We, however, if not Pretorius's sidekick, did not need to be told the meaning of "dis-dainful", and the *Pretorius* amongst us might have worked out for ourselves that the dark Moroccan beauty, Tanji, was named after Tangiers.

Tanji was exceptional. She even sang a song in French, not that memorably, about a song she had never forgotten. And, just like of old, she ended up bedding the hero to an encore of "La Vie en rose" — but her dinky charms left the hard-boiled Pretorius far from in the pink, brooding about his Brugge middle.

Andrew Hislop

● The Royal Exchange, Manchester, opens its season on September 10 with the first major production on the modern British stage of Schiller's *Don Carlos*, newly adapted and translated by James Maxwell.

Shrewdly for the theatrical rights

Fiona Shaw, in the vanguard of a new acting generation, opens as Katherina in *The Taming of the Shrew* at Stratford tomorrow: interview by Peter Lewis

Tall, tousled and teasing is the first impression produced by the entrance of Fiona Shaw, on stage or off. About to play Katherina in *The Taming of the Shrew* at Stratford — previews begin tomorrow, with the official opening on Tuesday — she is swiftly establishing her position as a leading actress of a new generation in the theatre. She is still under 30, but everything about her — height, mocking grin and authority — proclaims her calibre.

Currently a Shakespearean heroine, she could just as easily be one of Sheridan's or Shaw's. There is something more than a little intriguing about untidy hair breaking out in reddish wave-crests above finely-drawn eyebrows and eyes of greenish-blue which are visibly merry: Irish, naturally. Shaw was her grandmother's name, which she took for the stage, and there is a faint connection with G.B.S.'s Shaws. Her personality is appropriately mercurial. She covers the stage with darting speed, so that you cannot tell where she will be next. Expressions — apprehensive, disbelieving, appalled — chase nimbly across her features and vanish as suddenly. Rather than stand and deliver, she fires on the run, often over her disappearing shoulder. An audience needs to be on its toes to catch all of her performance.

Her conversation is equally nimble, proceeding in voluble leaps as she worries at the problems of playing Katherina, analyzing her



Fiona Shaw: "I rack myself... I think I'm a funny combination of worrying intellect and intense passion"

own "post-feminist" reactions, impatient with herself at the knots she cannot quickly untie. In discussions with her director, Jonathan Miller, one wonders, for once, who manages to say the most. "We've ended up by saying, oh, shall we go over to the tomb to rouse him and ask him?"

The difficulty, of course, is that in a post-feminist society the taming of shrews is apt to seem an unacceptably sexist sport, especially if conducted with thrown crockery. Dr Miller (no crockery-breaker he) is interested as always in the clinical psychology underlying the text. He has been talking of the behaviour patterns of unloved children. Katherina has every reason to resent being her father's unfavourable daughter. By being as "froward" as she knows how, she is showing just how unlovable she can be if she

chooses. "It's not that she needs taming, she needs releasing," reflects Fiona Shaw.

"She behaves badly because of being imprisoned by her society — being offered round by a father who says, in effect, 'Which of you chaps will have Kate? — otherwise nobody gets Bianca'. She couldn't exist in England today but she certainly does in India. I understand her anger at having her destiny settled over her head."

Nevertheless all this anger might seem unnatural to a born comedienne whom some critics have compared to a young Maggie Smith. Kate does not come easily to her, she admits. "I think I've met my match in Kate. I don't think she's funny. She has none of the disarming self-mockery of Beatrice, for example — all she has is

this storm of rage. Personally I rack myself rather than rage at others. I think I'm a funny combination of worrying intellect and intense passion."

The biggest difficulty of all is the notorious final speech in which Kate appears to recommend glad submission by women to their lords and husbands. "It's almost as if she's describing a religious experience. Very difficult to do if you've played a sensible Kate up until then."

So far Fiona Shaw has never lacked recognition. She went from her home town of Cork, where her father is a well-known eye surgeon, straight from university to RADA, where she won medals, and straight from RADA to the National Theatre as Julia in *The Rivals*. She has never, as she expected to, gone back to Ireland as an actress and has

never played an Irish part — although she has preserved the timbre in moderation. "I'm not sure I haven't lost my right to play Irish parts. I'm an expatriate, I suppose. Ireland means where I go for Christmas and the trauma of coming back and yearning for it for months afterwards."

In three years she has made her presence felt in the Royal Shakespeare Company not only as an actress but as a fighter for women's rights in the theatre, especially the right to direct plays. The RSC has four women directors this season, which may not be unconnected with the fuss she helped to make last year. "I think it opened their eyes." She talks of the company's community spirit with admiration but some reservation. "I've had to abandon most of my personal life for it. It's almost like being in a religious order. Out of the last three years I have spent two and a half either in Stratford or on tour, London, where my friends are, I hardly ever see."

But in return the RSC has been good to her: Celia in *As You Like It* was followed by *Fortinbras* and *Beatrice* in touring productions and now Katherina. Along the way she has won high acclaim in Gorki's *Philoctetes* and in James Shirley's *Caroline* comedy *Hyde Park* at Stratford. In that she puts on an exhilarating whirlwind of blue-stocking behaviour to dissemble her love for an equally difficult and stiff-necked suitor. It makes one long to see her Beatrice. She, too, hopes to play her again. "Beatrice is simply the nicest character I've come across in Shakespeare."

The real resemblance between her and leading actresses of previous eras is the way she has stuck single-mindedly in her twenties to the classics, in the manner of an Ashcroft or a Dench. Her career owes nothing to television. The choice was deliberate. "It's simply the best training there is. It makes you rigorous with yourself." And "rigorous" is an interesting word coming from an actress who could easily have been content with her gift for making an audience laugh.



Jackson: some odd interests

Strictly topical

ROCK

Michael Jackson's new album, *Bad*, is released this week:

review by

Richard Williams

Black American popular music really is in a terrible state. Where its musical and spiritual vigour once gave it the permanence of a cultural bedrock, most of what used to be called soul music now offers the moral depth of a mosquito to an audience with the attention-span of a flea.

It would be encouraging to report that *Bad*, the album which Michael Jackson releases this week in an attempt to write another chapter to one of show-business's most spectacular stories, offers a prescription. After all, its two predecessors, 1979's *Off the Wall* and 1982's *Thriller*, made vital contributions to the evolution of the pop-soul genre, as well as to the coffers of CBS Records (with sales of 40 million). *Thriller* is the top LP of all time.

Well, *Bad* is certainly not a record for those who hanker for the golden age. With a very precise determination, it talks strictly to the audience of today. That, of course, is what the Sixties craftsmen thought they were doing, too; and it will be a while before we can assess the durability of Jackson's current product.

Bad is mostly dance music, thereby fulfilling what has historically been black popular music's primary function. "Smooth Criminal", "Just Good Friends" and the song "Bad" itself opt for the relentless crash of electronic drums: the sound of the beat-box, of leaking Walkman headphones, of urban overcrowding itself. As the gleaming machine speeds by, details catch the ear: the squelchy synthesizer bass anchoring "The Way You Make Me Feel", for example, or the charmingly anachronistic and too-brief Hammond organ solo contributed by the veteran jazz musician Jimmy Smith to "Bad".

"Speed Demon", which combines pinball bass and rock guitar with weird falsetto and racing-car effects, offers music for amusement arcades. "Dirty Diana" is a tiresome groupie-trashing song of a sort that even the Rolling Stones stopped doing years ago; and "Just Good Friends" takes a very ordinary song by Graham Lyle and Terry Britten as a pretext for a disappointing duet with Stevie Wonder.

There are two ballads: "I Just Can't Stop Loving You", a duet with Seidha Garrett, has already topped the charts, its spoken introduction practically inviting a further volley of lama-and-oxygen-tent stories in the tabloids; "Liberian Girl", an exotic reverie with lovely vocal harmonies, proves most vividly that, like Wonder, Michael Jackson's most pressing need is for a lyric writer.

The major set-pieces are "Man in the Mirror", a mealy-mouthed slice of quasi-Geldofery ("If you want to make the world a better place/Take a look at yourself, and make a change"), featuring two gospel groups, and "Smooth Criminal", a pasty-minded little tale of a violent physical attack on a woman so graphically outlined that it will presumably generate a suitably creepy video.

At the age of 29, after 18 years in the public eye, Michael Jackson combines powerful musical gifts with a decidedly odd set of interests. In *Bad*, the recluse who wants to buy the remains of the Elephant Man is at least as visible as the artist who has probably forgotten more than his rivals know about what makes a great pop record.

● Michael Jackson's *Bad* (Epic 450290) was released yesterday on vinyl disc, compact disc and cassette.

Venice celebrates narrative

CINEMA

Cambridge one of them retreats into the agonized hypocrisy demanded by society, but Maurice — defies class and convention to find liberation through the love of a passionate young gamekeeper.

Ivory displays his usual elegance and wit in re-creating a past period, and wonderful irony in the interplay of manners and morality. Three young actors new to the screen, James Wilby, Hugh Grant and Rupert Graves, play their difficult roles with

marvellous delicacy under Ivory's direction.

Louis Malle returns to France after 12 years in America to exorcise a childhood nightmare. *Au Revoir Les Enfants* is an autobiographical recollection of schooldays in a provincial seminary at the age of 12; and of a day in 1944 when the Gestapo routed out three of his schoolmates, Jew-

ish children whom the priests had hidden.

Malle observes objectively, without melodrama, the daily trivia of school life — the children's cruelties and friendships, games and lessons, and fascinated bewilderment with the world of grown-ups and the war going on outside the school gates. Only at the very end, when Malle's own voice speaks on the soundtrack, do we grasp the horror that the child of 40 years ago had abruptly to grapple with: that

three small boys and an old priest were removed, by arbitrary cruelty, from the earth. Magnificently shot by Renato Berta and with astonishing performances by all the children, *Au Revoir Les Enfants* should be destined for major international success.

Eric Rohmer is another French master of the well-made film in his own particular style — a style which lies somewhere between the plays of Alfred de Musset and *Woman's Own* serials in its

exploration of human sentiment. *L'Ami de mon ami* is a new addition to his series of "Comédies et Proverbes", with his old theme of a group of characters trying to sort themselves into their correct and pre-ordained partnerships.

Two young women discover that they are stuck with the wrong men, and all they need to do is exchange partners. The action is set in a chilly provincial new town; and Rohmer emphasizes the artifice of his style by dressing up his characters in matching or contrasting colours, like players in a team game.

David Robinson

CONCERTS

BBC Philharmonic/Downes
Albert Hall/Radio 3

The title *Lovesongs* might imply something passionate, involved, even erotic. But Richard Rodney Bennett's 1984 settings, for tenor and orchestra, of five poems by e.e. cummings seem far too civilized and fastidious to think such basic thoughts.

The poems — self-centred analytical exercises — look dauntingly unlyrical anyway, and Bennett does well to draw such intelligently stressed vocal lines from them. In fact the tenor (Robert Tear, in good voice) often moves in apparent independence from the lush orchestral accompaniment. The latter is exquisitely calculated in a post-Debussy style; there is unusual use of guitar, feather-light percussion and brass touches, and much muted divi string writing in a rich harmonic style.

But what of emotion or Arditti Quartet Elizabeth Hall

As Harrison Birtwistle's series progresses the programme booklets become shoddier and shoddier. The other night they arrived without covers. This time they omitted the notes for two pieces, and Morton Feldman appeared as "Feldray". Admittedly the prose that was printed was sensible and literate (and free), unlike much in Edinburgh this year, but it is a pity that this important aspect of presentation should be so neglected.

The Arditti Quartet began with Anthony Gilbert's version of Machaut's *Hoquetus David*, the *idée fixe* of the series. Again the composer has done more than merely arrange the piece. He adopts the medieval practice of troping — or elaborating upon — the original, choosing a racy tempo and wilfully evoking the rough sounds of a large hurdy-gurdy.

The trope section occurs twice, first brash and loud, afterwards distanced. Between these two sections Gilbert presents Machaut's original, still heavily ornamented, at-

though he ends with a more straightforward exposition. In spite of the music's exhilarating virtuosity, its sheer velocity makes it sail perhaps too close to the winds of rhythmic anarchy.

The works about which we were not informed were Feldman's *Structures* (1951) and Ruth Crawford Seeger's *String Quartet* (1931). Seeger's is a remarkable score, full of the kinds of devices and textures one might expect from postwar serialists, yet at the same time always expressive in line and warm in flavour. Feldman's piece, which makes use of beguiling ostinato patterns, is ultra-refined, its dynamic hushed, its silences as highly charged with significance as its sounds.

The performances, almost needless to say, were excellent, as were those of Cage's *String Quartet in Four Parts*, which concerns itself with the colouring of single sounds, and of its very antithesis, Elliott Carter's *Fourth Quartet*. With every performance of this complex, dynamic piece emerges a little more of its lovely, lyrical spirit.

Stephen Pettitt

Where staging is all

THEATRE

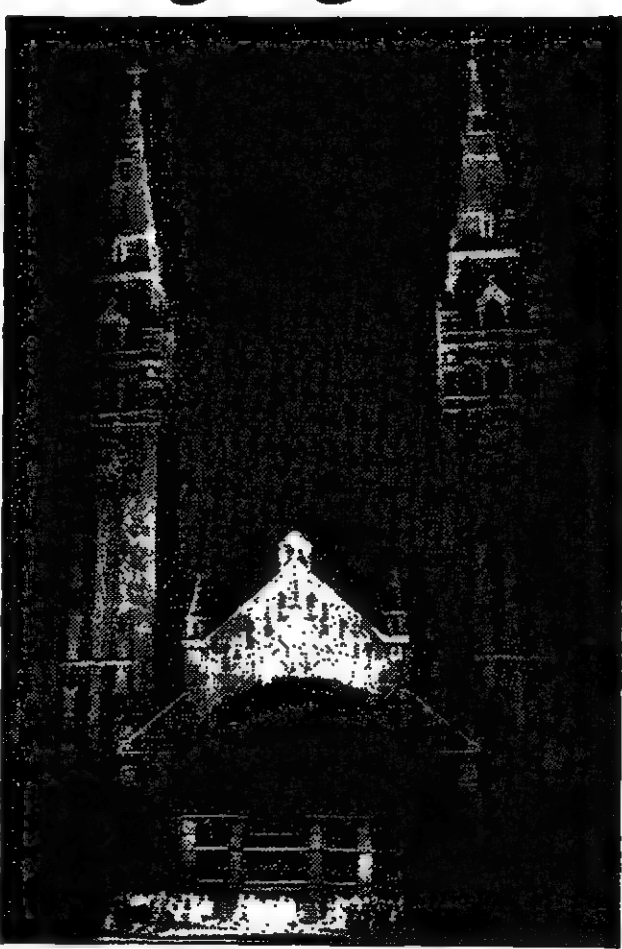
Sheridan Morley, at the Szeged Festival in Hungary, on an unique production of *Les Misérables*

These things are all a matter of box-office geography. You can of course pay the £50 or \$100 that ticket scalpers are currently demanding for admission to *Les Misérables* at theatres in London, New York and Tokyo; alternatively you can pay just over £3 and see the same Boublil/Schönberg/Kretzmer musical performed in the open air in Hungary by a cast of 150, roughly three times the size of any company on offer elsewhere.

This is not, admittedly, the setting of the original designer John Napier; instead, it is the cathedral courtyard in Szeged, a university town 100 miles to the south of Budapest where for a summer festival the Rock Theatre, a Hungarian state company dedicated to modern European and American musicals, are currently performing the first "non-official" production of a show that is elsewhere around the world still carefully controlled and reconstructed by its original creators.

There are certain problems. Instead of a Trevor Nunn or John Caird production, we get one by Matyas Varkonyi, who clearly believes that what you do with musicals is to line up the singers in team-photograph formation and have them belt out the songs to reach the back of the auditorium, which is several hundred feet away. The cathedral courtyard in Szeged manages comfortably to seat 6,500 people. Moreover, Hungarian musical acting still seems rooted in an operetta tradition. If restraint, intelligence and individuality of performance, even among the chorus, are what we have now come to expect of West End or Broadway musicals, you will not find a lot of that here.

What you will find, though, is an architectural extravaganza only available to the



Amazing backdrop: the scene in front of Szeged Cathedral

audiences of Szeged: when the production moves later this month to a conventional theatre in downtown Budapest it will lose half its cast and most of its power, which comes from the breathtaking way that the musical has been built into the cathedral walls and towers. When a soldier is killed on the barricades, he falls more than 50 feet to the paving stones below; when the Paris fighting is at its height, vast crowds carrying flares pour across the parapets, when that epic score surges out from a massive orchestra, only to reverberate against the walls of the cathedral itself, you are in the midst of an event which has precious little to do with acting but everything to do with sheer musical spectacle.

Les Misérables is, at least for its first half, more suited to this Cecil B. DeMille treatment than any other musical of recent times. Short of an adaptation of another Victor

Hugo novel, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, it is hard to think of a better cathedral-courtyard script. Unfortunately the second half is largely focused on two men, Jean Valjean and his faithful alter ego pursuer Javert, and it is there that the Hungarian production loses all focus as the two players (Gyula Viskidai and Pal Makrai) are inevitably dwarfed by the massiveness of their backdrop.

So what we end up with is a series of tableaux, some only faintly vivants; but, when they light that cathedral against the night sky, and 6,000 spectators look up to see chair-gangs or student armies clambering over the walls in clouds of smoke, there is a sense of a nation in ferment which no proscenium-arch production, however distinguished, could ever hope to match.

It is a stage spectacular conceived on a scale that makes *Intolerance* look like a picture postcard.

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Weldon takes the high wire

It takes a strong personality to dither in public. I remember admiring Fay Weldon immensely on the occasion when she was chairman of the Booker Prize judges, and found herself in possession of the casting vote. She sat for half an hour, gazing at both books, reading passages aloud and saying "Ummmm" while the other four judges, bitterly entrenched, watched with the hungry attention of jackals beneath a tree. Our prey refused to hurry, but balanced nonchalantly above us until she was sure of her own mind.

It said a lot about Fay Weldon. For one thing, she is passionate about novels, and reads voraciously and with enjoyment. And for another, she has a curious quality of calm wisdom and confidence, benevolently indifferent to the sneers and brickbats of the smart literary world.

A week spent with a series of Fay Weldon novels, interspersed with episodes of *The Life and Loves of a She-Devil* on television, makes you begin to think of her as a sort of primitive Wise Woman of the tribe, a giver of judgement and utterer of gnomic wisdoms: she is given to apostrophizing the reader sharply ("Reader! I wish I could tell you that Angie was happy...") and to uttering aphorisms of her own making. These range from the dilly willy ("If you are ever involved in a divorce, reader, make sure your solicitor is not in love with you") to prescriptions for life and death and grief.

Fay Weldon has gone out on a limb with her new 'soap opera' of a book. But her concerns remain the same, writes Libby Purves

One moving passage in her latest novel deals with the death of a child and how to face it: "If we are to give proper meaning and honour to their death, and our grief, we must enjoy the life we have, and not they, are privileged to have, and live thereafter properly and well, without wranglings or rancours." One is reminded of a more knowing, contemporary, Aunt Jane Austen.

Clutching this image of a Wise Woman, I solemnly ask Fay Weldon what wisdom, what experiences, make her brave enough to deliver all these direct instructions to her readers. She considers, "Mad, or drunk, I suppose. Well, not quite. But after five decades and four children you feel you do know minimally better than the next person, and you pass things on. What is the point of

writing novels if they aren't useful? Still, I would rather people argued with me."

She is, she admits, also given to aphorisms around the home ("usually on the level of 'Happy the pan the Brillo shines on'") and welcomes argument. She runs her family (long-time husband, four sons aged from 10 to 32) with a democratic, kindly, ironic affection.

The Weldon vision of the universe is quirky, moral, rather unfashionable. She is concerned with individual responsibility, the capacity of human beings to reform themselves, and the power of nature to overcome nurture.

She expresses good-humoured despair about what she calls "our strange helplessness culture. This set of new myths, in which nobody can bear to face the thought that some people are not loved, some are not basically good, some will not be missed when they die. And this counselling industry - like after Hungerford, counsellors and professionals being rushed in - seeming to imply that if we can just talk it all out there will be no unhappiness left. It can all turn into a sort of trivialization of grief, and therefore of humanity. We must not sap dignity from human beings with kindness that is 'unkind'."

Unlike most modern "serious" novelists, who combine uncertainty about the universe with an earnest preoccupation with style, Weldon deals confidently in great moral certainties, but has an



Fay Weldon at home, a sort of Aunt Jane Austen: "What is the point of writing novels if they aren't useful?"

engagingly frivolous approach to the craft of writing.

She once explained her style of short, staccato sentences (as in *Puffball*) by claiming that she wrote at the kitchen table with a pencil, and her children kept interrupting. When I observed that today the sentences have got longer, she replied: "They have got longer as the children get older."

Her latest novel is a maverick enterprise: after a string of short, beautifully shaped, slightly high-brow novels, she has published a

serial ("a soap opera") first written in very short episodes for the back of *Woman* magazine. It was her agent's idea. "You know how it is. You have lunch and before you know where you are, you find you've got to do it."

She rapidly decided that turning in 800 words a week to a deadline "was rather a nice way to write. Like Dickens." She even called her heroine Linde Nell. "I had no idea how long it would go on - it was planned as 12 episodes and actually went to 48. I needed a plot

I could bring to an end at any time: and I had the idea of two parents who lose their child by their misbehaviour, and get her back as a reward for their reform. I could have brought her back at any age, you see."

Eventually Heinemann asked for the book as a novel. (Weldon has been playing the field of late: she has finished with Hutchinson, is working off a contract with Hodder & Stoughton, and has received a £450,000 advance from Collins for her next three novels.)

'After five decades and four children, you feel you do know better than the next person'

When she put the episodes together, it worked surprisingly well. "The underlying shape must have been there all along in my unconscious, which is where novels come from." For instance, she started it in the Sixties for strictly practical reasons (a soap opera needs time to unfold), but the Sixties turned out to be the perfect symbol of her themes of morality and irresponsibility. "What a time that was! When everyone wanted everything, and thought they could have it... sex without babies, revolution without poverty. Careers without selfishness. Art without effort."

The general effect in this novel is of a comedy high-wire act. There is huge skill and discipline, beneath the baggy trousers and red nose of a Grand Guignol adventure story. There is fierce seriousness - about children, divorce, evil and the immortality of an art world in which well-paid hangers-on leech off ill-paid artists.

The book has an educational side-effect for her as a reader. "I now understand Dickens much better. I used to be annoyed by that feeling of rambling you got in his books, which began as serials. Now I see that it's oddly like people's lives. Lives do ramble on, like soap operas. But it's a cheerful novel, isn't it? Hardly a disagreeable thought in it."

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1987
The Hearts and Lives of Men by Fay Weldon, published next Monday by Heinemann, £9.95.

Out of the fire, into the firing line

How the tragedy of the Jasmine Beckford case has returned to haunt the new chief executive of Childline

The woman who was "gagged" by Brent Council after the death of Jasmine Beckford is relieved to be able to speak openly in her new job. But Valerie Howarth, recently installed as chief executive of Esther Rantzen's Childline charity at a salary of £27,000, is well aware that she may merely have gone from the fire to the frying pan - and that the heat is still on.

The Jasmine Beckford case, left simmering ominously on a back-burner, has flared up again with the publication of a damning indictment of Brent Social Services. Howarth, head of the department during the crucial period, claims she encouraged the independent report and welcomes its findings.

A soft-spoken 46-year-old whose "first love, in terms of care, is children", Howarth was forced to leave her plum post after the Jasmine Beckford scandal. Although exonerated of personal blame, she remains haunted by Jasmine's death - personally and professionally.

"I had to leave Brent overnight after a disagreement with councillors," is how she explains her hasty exit. "It wasn't really about the Beckford case, it was about other matters."

"When I went to Brent five years ago, the department was

totally inefficient. A lot of the problems that are coming out now are really just part of a long history of difficulties," she says. "Frankly, it wasn't a lot better by the time I left. I recommended an external review because I felt it was one way members could be placed with the real issues in the department. Whether they will do anything about them I really don't know."

That's looking back, and Valerie Howarth is very anxious to move forward - away from the lengthening shadows of Brent. She has done much since completing a course at the Henley Business School "to keep out of the public eye".

After reviewing the residential care offered by the John Bircham Association for the Disabled, she was asked to undertake a survey into homelessness in Central London for the Thomas Coram Foundation.

She is still reeling from the shock of her yet-to-be-published results, which could place her in the centre of a new storm. "It's a national scandal," she says. "If it were the Third World we would be horrified at the conditions people are living in - and the way the state is failing them."

There are 8,000 households living in bed and break-



Valerie Howarth: anxious to move forward from Brent

fast hotels in London in appalling conditions. I could not believe that so many people could live in places like these, cooking in primitive communal kitchens in the basement, people crammed into every room. It's disgraceful."

Though unable to have children herself, her life revolves around them. The house she shares with three others is always full of children and her younger sister's family spend a lot of time with Aunt Valerie. Her sparsely furnished office close to St

Paul's is brightened by a cheerful pottery model of a child in a red telephone kiosk. But there is also a framed photograph of a child in a squalid hostel, wearing "that look of frozen watchfulness abused children have".

An incredible 8,000 calls are made daily to the Childline freephone number (0800 1111), of which only about 700 can be answered. The rest get engaged tones or a tape of Esther Rantzen urging them to try again.

Not exactly what you need if you are a child who has taken your courage in both hands to confide in an outsider, Valerie Howarth agrees.

"I am reviewing the tape," she admits, "but what else can we do? We can't possibly answer all the calls." There are 10 lines but they are seldom all manned together due to staff shortages. "We hope to have a full complement of 60 counsellors, with about 100 volunteers to back them up, but it is all down to funding."

Childline is fighting for a government grant. "They've never given us one - just £50,000 to start off, which is really nothing. Since then we've raised £1 million for the charity, which sounds a lot, but our first phone bill was £164,000."

Childline, which grew out of Esther Rantzen's *Childwatch* programme, has clearly benefited from its chairman's high profile, though an article in *New Society* suggested that Rantzen might have to adopt a lower profile to allow Howarth to establish the charity on a more serious, pro-

fessional footing, and implies an image war between the two.

Valerie Howarth laughs at this. "Esther and I are a good team. We work well together. I admire her for her work and I think she respects me for mine. She's chairman and heads the policy making groups: she's got a proper, professional role and is an intelligent woman who understands the issues. I manage the organization. I see it as a partnership and don't have any feeling of competition."

Callers to Childline have been as young as six, although the majority are between 10 and 18 and some are adults who phone to talk about abuse in their childhood. Two thirds are female and half have been sexually or physically abused, although some children call simply because they are lonely, or scared, or worried about their parents' rows.

"There are even a few calls from perpetrators looking for help to stop - although there's no way we can help them unless they are prepared to end up in prison. That's a difficult area," she concedes.

As Childline prepares for its first birthday next month, with no doubt lots of razzamatazz, Howarth is quietly confident that it will mature to celebrate many more. "But I really liked being a social worker," she adds sadly. "I think it is because I'd like everyone to be as happy and have as good a quality of life as I have."

Victoria McKee

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Doubt goes back to school

Alice Thomas Ellis believes education is too much of a hit-and-miss affair

noted that £900 of our annual rates bill goes towards "education".

There are, of course, the public schools. A lot of my best friends went to public schools and benefited greatly, but although I do not wish to boast about my acquaintances, they were all clever and suited to the high academic level. Of all the people I detest, the stupid public schoolboy ranks among the foremost. My husband says that people send their children to public schools for one of two reasons: either because they want to one themselves or because they didn't. These schools have largely lost their point now that we no longer have an empire in need of administrators. It seems to me fruitless to have an "elite" when they have little to be elite about and nowhere to be it except here, where they get right up the noses of the rest of the population.

Mark Pattison wrote in the 19th century: "Of all the

practical arts, that of education seems the most cumbersome in its method, and to be productive of the smallest results with the most lavish expenditure of means. Hence the subject of education is one which is always lurking on the horizon of the theorist. Everyone, as he grows up, becomes aware of time lost and effort unsupplied, in his own case. It is not unusual to desire to save our children from a like waste of power."

Quite so. The trouble is that few children know what they want to be when they grow up. If you know you are going to be a concert pianist or a brain surgeon then, clearly, it is never too soon to begin learning all you can about your chosen vocation, but most children are not so decided, and are required to specialise too early.

If they were simply encouraged to read more widely, perhaps they would discover more scope for ambition, or at least find topics that interested them. I don't know how you would set about forcing children to read, but surely teachers must have some means of encouraging them. The perfect education would consist of having the run of a vast library with access to a serious person who would answer questions about the difficult bits. This is clearly not practical for everyone.

I have now reminded myself that I hate the whole boring subject of education and am deeply pessimistic about it. It is a middle, I hear that the authorities are about to take a hand in a national curriculum. I have absolutely no doubt that they will make it further.

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BRIEFLY
A round-up of news, views and information

Designer winner

Anyone intending to pursue a career in interior design will be interested to hear of the prize on offer to the best student taking the Country House Course's one-year diploma course, which starts later this month. "The £1,000 award is to celebrate the school's tenth anniversary," explains its principal, Mrs Moreen Biron. The Country House Course (unfortunately omitted from our recent feature) combines both the aesthetic and practical elements of interior design: everything from curtains to costings, with emphasis on the skill of preparing accurate plans and drawings for clients and contractors. They also offer a one-year certificate for foreign or younger students, while shorter courses explore furniture restoration, decorative finishes, soft furnishings, draughtsmanship and other tricks of the trade. For more details, contact Mrs Biron. The Country House Course, Holmestall, Mayfield, Sussex TN20 6NJ (0435 872275).

Quote me...
"I've never known a woman who has felt fulfilled by exercising only child-rearing skills and talents. I feel the ideal life has everything in it - industry, which everyone needs, artistic expression, and a fulfilling job." - Marilyn French, author

Driving yams

Veterans of the school and station run are swelling the membership figures of *Travellers' Tales*, a library of taped books. Membership is £11.50 a year, and for a hire charge of 80p per book subscribers can listen to more than 1,000 works, including biographies, humour, thrillers and romances, such as *Hotel du Lac* (read by Anna Massey), *Paradise Postponed* (Ben Kingsley), and *Fair Stood the Wind for France* (Nigel Havers). "You can spot our members," says the library's Neil Gunn. "They arrive home and sit in the drive for 10 minutes waiting for the end of a chapter on their car cassette

players." More information from *Travellers' Tales*, Great Weddington, Ash, Canterbury, Kent CT3 2AR (0304 812431). Of course, the truly upwardly mobile will probably want to wait for books on compact disc.

House-bound

"We'd like 1988 to be the year of living comfortably," says Age Concern. "But arthritic fingers and a scarcity of funds can make the adaptation or maintenance of the home a real problem." So Age Concern has produced a new booklet, *Owning Your Own Home in Retirement*, which is full of helpful suggestions for keeping the home secure, warm and in excellent repair. Priced £1.50 (inc p&dp), the guide is available from Age Concern's Marketing Dept (PR 32), 60 Piccadilly Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3LL.

Lip service

Swiftly following a jewellery collection for Tiffany and her own designer scent, Paloma Picasso is now endeavouring to ensure that not only is her name on the lips of everyone who matters, but so are her cosmetics. For £15, from leading department stores, women may now replicate Paloma's enigmatic smile with an elegantly-packaged bright red lipstick: the signature colour she's always worn herself.

Josephine Fairley

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BBC1

- 6.00 *Ceejay AM*.
6.35 *Edgar Kennedy in Heart Burn* (b/w) 6.55 *Weather*.
7.00 *Breakfast Time* with Frank Bough, Sally Magnusson, Jeremy Paxman and Pamela Armstrong. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; and weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25. Plus, the latest news from the SDP Conference and Bob Friend's transatlantic report.
8.35 *The Pink Panther* shorts. Cartoons (r). 8.55 *Regional news* and weather.
9.00 *News and weather* 9.05 *Children's BBC*. Magazine programme presented by Andy Crane, beginning with a Charlie Brown cartoon (r) followed at 9.25 by *Heartbeat*. Tony Hart's series on the art of making pictures (r).
10.00 *News and weather* 10.05 *Neighbours* (r). 10.25 *Play School* (r) and *The Pearlys* (r).
10.55 *Five to Eleven*. Catherine Griller with a thought for the day 11.00 *News and weather* 11.05 *World Athletics Championships* - Rome 87. Highlights of the first four days.
12.00 *News and weather* 12.05 *Dad's Army*. The Southport wedding is followed by a confrontation between J.P. and Cliff Barnes (r). 12.55 *Regional news and weather*.
1.00 *One O'Clock News* and weather 1.25 *Neighbours*. Sparks fly between Nikki and Laura.
1.50 *Film: The VIPs* (1983) starring Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, Louis Jordan and Margaret Rutherford. Drama about a group of VIP airline passengers grounded at London Airport by fog and forced to spend the night in the airport hotel. Directed by Anthony Asquith.

BBC2

- 6.55 *Open University: Shorelands School - Facing Change*. Ends at 7.20.
8.00 *Ceejay*.
9.30 *SDP Conference 1987*. Live coverage of the debates on community charge and devolution.
12.30 *Ceejay* 1.20 *The Plumpies* (r). 1.35 *Ceejay*.
2.00 *News and weather*.
2.02 *SDP Conference 1987*. The debates on animal rights and the social market economy are on the agenda. Includes news and weather at 3.00 and 4.00.
3.35 *Film: Elvis on Tour*. A documentary film recording Elvis Presley's 1972 concert tour of the United States. Directed by Pierre Adrien and Robert Abol. (See Choice).
7.10 *Open Space: Life After Crime*. (See Choice).
7.40 *Open Space: Life After Crime*. A documentary about eight-year-old Doran Scott's fight to overcome a severely handicapped existence caused by leukaemia contracted soon after birth. Doctors said he would never walk but his mother, Linda, refused to accept this.

and fought the medical profession, the local authorities, the NHS and educational authorities to make sure that her son got the support he needed to overcome his handicap. (r). (See Choice).
8.10 *Julia Somers: Back to Back*. A new award-winning film examining the crisis facing North American waterfalls. (See Choice).
8.00 *Mr A's*. As Major Frank Butler, he has been in command of 407th and Hawkesey sets up the Henry Blake Memorial Bar. Radar brings news of the pending arrival of a new commanding officer, an ex-Cavalry man who hasn't operated in two years (r).
9.35 *ScreenPlay: The Best Years of Your Life* (r). (See Choice).
10.00 *Newsnight* 11.10 *Weather*.
11.15 *ScreenPlay: The Best Years of Your Life*. A performance of Beethoven's final sonata for cello and piano, Op. 102, No. 2 (r).
11.40 *Open Space: Life After Crime*. A documentary about eight-year-old Doran Scott's fight to overcome a severely handicapped existence caused by leukaemia contracted soon after birth. Doctors said he would never walk but his mother, Linda, refused to accept this.

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 *TV-am* introduced by Caroline Righthorpe and Richard Kaye. News at 6.00 and 6.30 weather at 6.35 and 6.55 financial news at 6.55 and 6.55 and 6.55.
7.00 *Good Morning Britain* presented by Kay Burley and Richard Kaye. News at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30. Pop music at 7.55.
8.35 *Wendy with Timmy Mallett* and Michael Strahan.
9.25 *Thames news headlines*.
9.30 *Singapore* (r). 10.00 *The Coral Island*. Adventure serial (r). 10.30 *University Challenge*. The second semi-final 11.00 *The Golden Game Show* (r). 11.10 *News* (r). 11.55 *Thames news headlines*.
11.30 *Tomorrow Talking*. The last in the series in which young people talk about their hopes for the future. 12.00 *The Sunbathers*. News with Jon Snow 12.55 *Thames news*.
1.00 *A Country Practice*. Medical drama serial set in a remote Australian township 2.00 *Pennines*. Words of wisdom game presented by Gordon Burns. 2.30 *Dining in France*. Last in the series.
3.00 *Take the High Road*. Sam Scanlon arrives to meet Irene. 3.25 *Thames news headlines*. 3.30 *Sons and Daughters*.
4.00 *Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends* (r). 4.30 *Video*.
4.30 *Chips*. The final programme of the series. 4.55 *Demmo*. Animated adventures 4.55 *Light Tight* with Sarah Wile and Graham Stark.
5.15 *Whose Baby?* Ted Rogers, Bertie Reading and Mick Robertson try to guess the identities of the parents of a succession of toddlers. Presented by Bernie Winters.
5.45 *News with Fiona Armstrong* 6.00 *Thames news*.

CHANNEL 4

- 7.30 *Flam Young Gloria* (1983) starring John Huston, Peter Fox and Paul. Sentimental drama based on a true story, about the fight to save a San Diego orphanage from closure. Directed by Terrell Tarr. 8.00 *Carlson*.
8.10 *Film: Through the Glass* (1983) (b/w) starring Buster Keaton as a Civil War veteran who is somewhat unbalanced. Directed by Jules White.
8.30 *The Gong Show*. Gary Owens with another collection of would-be but no-chance show business hopefuls.
9.00 *Carlson*.
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Platform smiles of support for the new leader



Mr Robert MacLennan acknowledging a standing ovation with Dr Owen (left) and Mr Charles Kennedy sharing the enthusiasm. (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

Drug-proof epidemics cost hospitals £100m

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

An epidemic of antibiotic-resistant infections is spreading through Britain's hospitals, costing the health service £100 million a year, experts said yesterday.

Ten patients in every hundred admitted to hospital are likely to become infected, with some of them dying as a result. Doctors, nurses and other staff become carriers of the infections and unwittingly pass them to other patients, or transport them to other hospitals.

The problem has become so serious that some doctors do not believe the infections can be eliminated within the next 10 years.

Just to bring them under control will require vast additional resources, including specially trained medical staff and the introduction of stringent new measures, specialists said yesterday.

In addition, at least half of the NHS hospitals have kitchens infested with cockroaches. Ten times as much as is spent now is needed for the control of those and other pests, including rats, mice, pigeons and ants that can chew their way through medical equipment.

The crisis was discussed in London yesterday by microbiologists and other specialists attending the first international conference of the Hospital Infection Society.

Professor Ian Phillips, professor of microbiology at St Thomas's Hospital, London, told the conference there was a shortage of consultants in

infectious diseases to help to fight the crisis and the problem was unlikely to be eliminated in the next decade.

The conference was told that in one of London's four health regions, North East Thames, one strain of bacteria is now regarded as endemic in nine hospitals, including three of the region's four teaching hospitals.

The strain, methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), does not respond to treatment by many antibiotics. It affects a total of 23 hospitals in the region, compared with 11 four years ago.

The annual cost of fighting the infection in one of the teaching hospitals, where up to 100 patients a year are infected, was estimated yesterday at £247,000.

Among the hospitals surveyed, 11 had inadequate isolation facilities, while in nine others, clinicians showed a lack of awareness of the infection risks.

The bacterium is commonly carried, usually harmlessly, on the skin or within the nose. However, when it infects wounds, as in surgical operations, it delays healing and in many cases the operation has to be performed at least once again.

The problems of hospital infections have prompted recent calls for action to improve standards of hygiene from the National Association of Health Authorities, the Royal College of Nursing, and the Institution of Environmental Health Officers.

SDP chief signals inter-party clash

Continued from page 1

all-out battle on nuclear power.

He won a standing ovation for a speech in which he promised negotiations in good faith but pledged that he was not going to lead the SDP into "a leap into a limbo" and said that some enthusiasts for merger were undermining the task of the negotiators.

He underlined his clear intention to fight hard on policy questions, pledging the SDP to competitive markets and adding: "Social Democrats are agreed that the country's defence requires not only a commitment to the collective strategy of Nato but also a retention of a nuclear element in Britain's defence capability."

It was a clear warning to the Liberal unilateralists that the departure of Dr Owen from the SDP leadership has not made them a soft touch on the defence issue.

On nuclear power Mr MacLennan, who has the Dounreay nuclear reactor as a major

employer in his Caithness and Sutherland constituency, put things even more starkly. He pointed out that the SDP (which is committed to the building of more nuclear power stations) and the Liberal Assembly had last year adopted totally opposed stances which were then fused in the Alliance policy document.

Mr MacLennan declared: "The Alliance lacked the courage to face the civil nuclear issue clearly." He added: "On a subject of such importance the initial stance and the subsequent substance of any new party must be clear."

Even Dr Owen compromised with the Liberal commitment to phase out nuclear power as the price of securing concessions from the Liberals on nuclear defence. The Liberal leader, Mr David Steel, is himself committed against the extension of nuclear power on environmental grounds.

Now Mr MacLennan has set himself to push through the

SDP line on nuclear power and to keep the concessions gained from the Liberals on defence - a remarkably tall order which has amazed the Owenites.

In his astonishingly candid interview yesterday Dr Owen accused those who advocated merger of having panicked and lost their nerve, disclosed the extent of the internal wrangling with his fellow members of the Gang of Four over the last few years and said that while he believed he could have been leader of the new merged party, he was not prepared to compromise fundamental beliefs to be part of a party with which he would be out of tune.

His opposition to merger was "an issue of principle and conviction". If negotiations went well he would not jump on the bandwagon of the new party. Conventions could not be abandoned just like that, especially if the alternative was "a leap in the dark".

He disclosed that throughout the past four years he had differed from Mrs Shirley

Williams, Mr Roy Jenkins and Mr Bill Rodgers on defence, the social market economy and old Labour values and that it was often only by narrow majorities that he had been able to hold the SDP to a distinctive line during this "internal struggle".

He said those grassroots members who had risen up and rejected merger had panicked, who have lost their nerve, and who thought that the result of the election was so bad that therefore you can't have a fourth party in British politics.

The rump SDP might fail but it would fail with honour. Mr Steel last night said he very much welcomed the tone of the "constructive" speech by Mr MacLennan (Sheila Gunn writes).

He said: "I hope that the teams chosen by our two parties will meet around a table as one deliberative body of Liberals and Social Democrats with one purpose and in no sense as two horse-trading teams on opposite sides."

Grim struggle down St Helena's shaft No 10

Continued from page 1

more similar operations until the safety of rescuers can be guaranteed.

Although his chilling account drew praise from his fellow workers, the mystery explosion which left 50 miners dead, at least 5 of them white, has done little to improve Gencor's South African safety record.

About this time last year, 177 miners at the company's Kinross mine were asphyxiated in an underground fire. In

April this year, 34 men died at the company's Ermelo colliery. Seven senior mine officials from Kinross are later this month to stand trial on charges of criminal negligence.

The company is still at pains to emphasize that the cause of the explosion is not known, although sabotage has been ruled out. A spokesman refused to speculate yesterday, but said it was possible that a methane gas leak might have caused the explosion.

It is considered much more

likely, however, that human error was involved, since the accident occurred at a time when miners were leaving the cage at the pumping station and there was unlikely to be a build-up of dangerous gas in a well-ventilated modern shaft which has been in operation for three years.

Gencor officials denied that there were any blasting explosives or unstable detonators on the cage when it descended.

It is illegal to carry miners and explosives at the same

time, but mining experts say that the procedure is common practice at mines with lax safety procedures. If this had happened at the No 10 shaft, it could account for the explosion.

Black National Union of Mineworkers' officials who held talks with the management at St Helena yesterday, accused Gencor of refusing to install safety stewards on all its shafts, in spite of repeated appeals as a result of previous similar disasters.

Conference sketch

Green light for a dapper chappie

"I'll just give you one example," said John during the course of the Looking Forward to the 1990s debate. But as he said it, the amber light on the rostrum changed to red. "I don't think there's time actually John", interrupted Mr William Rodgers from above. And so John withdrew, taking his one example with him.

Watching the light change from green to amber and then to red has been one of the most rewarding activities offered by the SDP conference in Portsmouth. As each speaker arrives at the dais, the light goes green. After a couple of minutes it turns to amber, and the speaker begins to speak very fast.

It is around this time that the speaker decides to expand his original point - on, perhaps, the future of the anti-mergerites in Chiswick north-west - to a more general discussion on the future of the world.

And then the light goes red and they toddle back to their seats.

Once in a long while, a famous SDP member speaks and the Gods seem to lean forward for a few seconds from their pillows. A couple of weeks ago, Mr Robert MacLennan might easily have dressed up as Widow Twankey and waited his way around the Palace of Westminster and no-one would have noticed. These days, his presence in a room is enough for experts to declare that room not entirely empty.

His presence on the platform yesterday even brought people to their feet, and not merely to look for him under their chairs. Looking like the photographic model in a seaside barber's shop, he strode confidently to the platform to make what pundits had called the most difficult speech of his life.

As difficult speeches go, it was pretty easy. As soon as he entered, Dr David Owen gave him a pat on the back, a photogenic thumbs-up and a standing ovation. Mrs Shirley Williams then recommended his courage, determination and integrity.

His stage act is quite obviously strongly influenced by the slightly famous sixties pop group Reparatia and the Delrons who almost reached the Top Ten in the mid-to-

late sixties with their hit record "Something Here in My Heart".

The chorus went, you will remember, "Something here in my heart keeps a-tellin' me no", and as Reparatia enunciated the words "here-here-here" she would move her hands towards her heart and then back into the air, in a manner owing more to rehearsal than instinct.

He kicked off his speech with a joke or two. A joke from Mr MacLennan can be identified by the short pause that immediately follows it.

He had read in the press, he said, that he was "a dapper dresser" and, he continued, "although delighted by all of this, my tailor does not seriously expect that I am about to do for his business prospects what Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales achieved for the Emanuel's". A laugh swept through the conference hall as a drip of water might sweep through the Kalahari.

Mr MacLennan then got down to some serious gesticulation. "June, as we all know, was not good enough." This was the hard-hitting stuff the conference had been waiting for. ... today, the raging must stop. The realism starts here.

As the word "here" emerged from MacLennan's mouth, his right hand made a weird flamboyant gesture towards the ground. The man who had believed himself to be a Delron for life was proving himself a worthy Reparatia.

"If the time is right for union then you will know and so will I." Brave words indeed, and made all the more courageous by the waving of an arm in the air. "We owe it to ourselves..." he went on, his hands now coming together to point at his body. "We owe it to the British electorate..." and the hands, now out of control, began summoning a waiter. "... that is what my leadership is all about." And with that, he sat down.

They stood and they clapped and they cheered and Dr Owen did another thumbs up. They remained standing as long as they could, perhaps worried that if they sat down he might ask them what he had said.

Craig Brown

Ireland bans beer can

By Paul Valley

The Irish government is banning the import of canned beer from the end of the year, according to proposals submitted to the EEC.

The move sets a precedent for other EEC countries, including Britain, which will submit next month its own proposals to limit waste in food packaging.

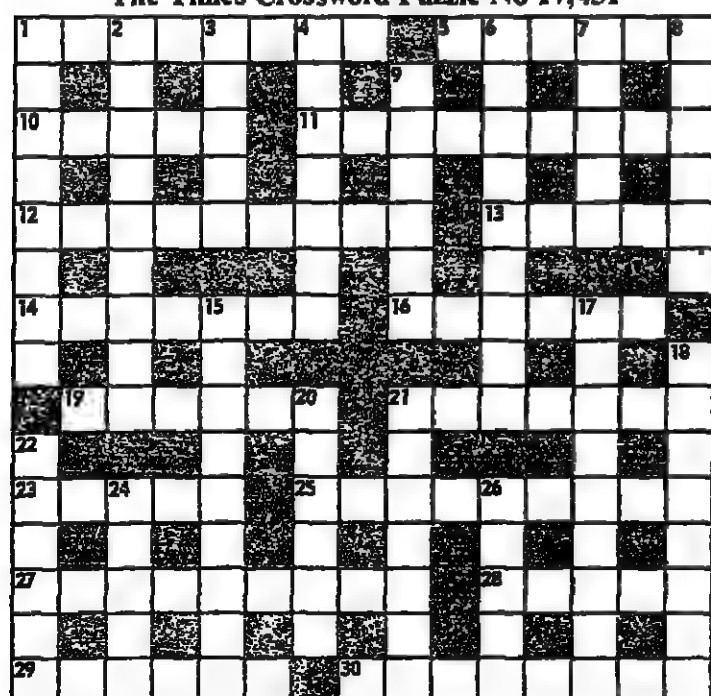
The decision comes after the 1985 EEC Directive on Containers of Liquids for Human Consumption, which required

members to submit by last month measures to eliminate increasing amounts of waste metal, plastic and paper.

About a quarter of Ireland's glass is made from recycled material. The use of cans for beer, even in imported brews, will be banned from the end of the year.

Almost all the canned beer sold in the republic is imported from Britain; only 2 per cent of local brews are sold in cans.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,451



This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 16 per cent of the competitors at the 1987 London Regional final of The Times Collins Dictionary Crossword Championship.

- ACROSS**
- Companion to conspire in king's downfall (8).
 - Notices about party's new lines (2-5).
 - Continue without interruption to enter at speed (3,2).
 - Service vehicles required for communications (4,5).
 - Old athletes making record money in Greece (9).
 - Cross in ancient temple in Greek island (5).
 - Like Lord Lundy's greeting (7).
 - Old lady of Paris joins ambassador to island (6).
 - Passes round some cuts of meat (6).
 - Awful girl, grasping one (7).
 - A French cask free on board (5).
 - State - for example, it is connected with church (9).
 - Permissive conditions good for race (4-5).
 - Hit back (5).
 - City's second half - outside left's score (6).
 - Saint seen round an ancient capital (8).
- DOWN**
- Why kids resemble parents.
 - The national final of The Times Collins Dictionary Crossword Championship will be held at the Park Lane Hotel, London, on Sunday, September 6, at 1.30pm, admission £2.
 - Concise crossword, page 9

WEATHER

General situation: A slow moving trough over southern England will weaken as a ridge of high pressure moves across northern Britain. Further troughs will move into western areas later in the day. Southern and central parts of England and south Wales will start dull and misty, with a few thicker patches of fog and a little local light rain or drizzle. Many places will see some sunshine later but with showers developing in places. The rest of England and Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland will be dry for much of the day with sunny spells and much fresher than in the south. Cloud will increase again in the west later. Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Rain affecting many areas tomorrow, especially in the west, showers and sunny intervals following, some of the showers heavy.

ABROAD

	C	F		C	F
Alicante	20	68	Malaga	20	68
Almeria	20	68	Madrid	20	68
Barcelona	20	68	Seville	20	68
Bilbao	20	68	Valencia	20	68
Bombay	20	68	Windsor	20	68
Buenos Aires	20	68			
Calcutta	20	68			
Cairo	20	68			
Cape Town	20	68			
Chicago	20	68			
Colon	20	68			
Hong Kong	20	68			
London	20	68			
Los Angeles	20	68			
Manila	20	68			
Mexico City	20	68			
Mumbai	20	68			
New York	20	68			
Paris	20	68			
Rangoon	20	68			
Singapore	20	68			
Sydney	20	68			
Taipei	20	68			
Tokyo	20	68			
Yokohama	20	68			

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs
Seashore	22.5	15	15	15	15
Bradlington	22.2	-	-	-	15 cloudy
Crane	21.8	18	18	18	18
Woolf	21.5	17	17	17	17
Clacton	21.0	17	17	17	17
Weymouth	20.9	17	17	17	17
Weymouth	20.8	17	17	17	17
Weymouth	20.7	17	17	17	17
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Weymouth	0.1	17	17	17	17
Weymouth	0.0	17	17	17	17

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1778.9 (+19.1)
FT-SE 100
2272.8 (+23.1)
Bargains
29790 (28380)
USM (Datastream)
209.61 (+0.08)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6395 (+0.0090)
W German mark
2.9708 (+0.0139)
Trade-weighted
72.8 (+0.3)

Lipworth to head the MMC

Sir Godfrey Le Queux, chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for the past 12 years, is to retire at the end of the year and will be replaced by Mr Maurice Sydney Lipworth. Mr Lipworth's appointment was announced yesterday by the Trade and Industry Secretary, Lord Young.

Macfarlane up

Macfarlane Group (Clansman), the packaging to plastics mouldings company headed by Sir Norman Macfarlane, yesterday announced that pretax profits rose to £2.3 million from £1.9 million in the six months to end June. Earnings per share were 4.8p (3.9p) and an interim dividend of 1.25p (1.11 p) will be paid.

TGH rise

Pretax profits at Templeton Galbraith & Hansberger, the international fund managers, rose 14 per cent to \$26.5 million (£16 million) for the half year to June 30. The interim dividend goes up 17 per cent to 3.5 cents a share.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2885.11 (+22.18)
Tokyo	Nikkei Dow	26118.42 (+89.20)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	3644.28 (+82.54)
Amsterdam	Gen	318.5 (+0.5)
Sydney	AO	2157.7 (+7.7)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank	2033.3 (+17.4)
Brussels	Gen	5311.8 (+10.1)
Paris	CAC	430.4 (+1.7)
Zurich	SIX	584.1 (+4.4)
London	FT-A All-Share	1778.9
	FT-500	1782.8
	FT Gold Mines	438.2 (+6.7)
	FT Fixed Interest	92.02 (-0.56)
	FT Govt Secs	84.98 (-0.07)
Recent issues		Page 22
Closing prices		Page 25

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RUSS:		
Cookson Group	808p (+17p)	
Appletree	320p (+25p)	
Eucalyptus Pulp	710p (+40p)	
N Brown	880p (+35p)	
WH Smith 'A'	405p (+15p)	
W Canning	278p (+13p)	
Land Securities	280p (+13p)	
Int'l City Hldgs	1385p (+50p)	
Cons Gold	1425p (+15p)	
Allied Ins Broker	580p (+10p)	
Greenwich Res	518p (+12p)	
Rediffam Glass	280p (+13p)	
Int'l City Hldgs	280p (+13p)	
AGB Research	261p (+10p)	
Kenyon Securities	510p (+20p)	
FALLS:		
GUS 'A'	1244p (-25p)	
Executive Clothes	190p (-15p)	
Taylor Woodrow	281p (-13p)	
Babcock	481p (-13p)	
Anglia TV	481p (-13p)	
Prices are as at 4pm		

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank 10%-10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 10%-10%
buying rate
US: Prime Rate 8 1/4%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 6 1/4-6 3/8%
30-year bonds 9 1/4-9 7/8%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£ \$1.6395	£ \$1.6402
£ DM2.9708	£ DM2.9725
£ Sfr2.4502	£ Sfr2.4570
£ FFfr.9313	£ FFfr.9362
£ Yen232.24	£ Yen148.82
£ Index 72.8	£ US\$100.8
ECU £0.6985	SDR £2/a

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$453.10 pm \$453.75	
close \$453.00-453.50 (\$278.00-278.50)	
New York:	
Comex \$454.20-454.70	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct.)	pm \$18.50 bid (\$18.55)
* Denotes latest trading price	

City calm on £310m deficit

Third month in red after imports surge

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain's balance of payments was in deficit in July for the third successive month. The current account deficit was £310 million - worse than the City expected.

Market expectations had been for a deficit of between £50 million and £300 million. Even so, the FT-SE 100 index closed 23.1 points up at 2,272.8, and government stocks ended a point higher. Both were initially hit by the trade data.

The financial markets reacted with equanimity to the figures, on the view that it was in capital equipment and raw materials that much of the surge in imports to a record £7.69 billion occurred.

"This was the first anti-overheating news we have had for some time," said Mr Keith Skeoch, chief economist at James Capel, the broker. "There is a deterioration in

the balance of payments only as a result of industry increasing its capacity."

The July current account deficit followed revised deficits of £140 million in June and £496 million in May. For the first seven months of the year, the current account was in deficit by £400 million, the July deficit and revisions to

invisible earnings earlier in the year contributing to a significant worsening in the cumulative figure. Last month, the figures showed a small surplus in the first half of the year.

Treasury officials said the cumulative deficit compared favourably with the Budget forecast of a £2.5 billion deficit for the year as a whole. Imports rose by £547 million to £7.69 billion, a record.

Imports of capital equipment, raw materials and components and passenger cars rose strongly.

In the May-July period, the volume of imports was up by 6.5 per cent on the previous three months, and by 8 per cent on the corresponding period last year. Excluding oil and the so-called erratic items of trade, the increases were 8 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. Exports rose by £377 million to £6.78 billion, with rises in most categories. There was a particularly sharp increase in exports to North America, notably of cars.

But export volume in the May-July period was 4.5 per cent down on the previous three months and only 3 per cent up on a year earlier. Excluding oil and erratics, the fall compared with the previous three months was 1.5 per cent, and the increase on a year earlier 6 per cent.

Officials at the Department of Trade and Industry said that while the trend for non-oil imports was clearly upwards, exports appeared to have stabilised at the high levels of last year.

The visible trade deficit, of £910 million in July, turned into a current account deficit of £310 million after allowance for the £600 million surplus on invisible items - services, interest, profits and dividends.

The surplus on oil trade increased from £245 million in June to £284 million in July. A bigger improvement had been expected.

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FAI up 56% to record

By John Bell, City Editor

Mr Larry Adler, whose Australian company FAI Insurance holds a key stake in Hill Samuel, the beleaguered merchant banking group, yesterday revealed record profits for the year to end-June. After tax and extraordinary items they rose 56 per cent to Aus\$113.4 million (£49.7 million).

Mr Adler also revealed that, without benefits of any cash issues during the year, shareholders' funds grew even more rapidly, from Aus\$246.6 million to Aus\$427.5 million.

FAI performed well in almost every department of its operations. The group made underwriting profits of Aus\$3.7 million, 22.8 per cent up on the previous year, and the expense ratio improved to an all-time low of 11.31 per cent compared with 12 per cent previously. Total assets more than doubled to Aus\$2.162 billion.

Adjusting for the one-for-one scrip issue in June, shareholders are to receive a dividend increase of 140 per cent, and FAI has started its current financial year in fine style. Since year-end the group has disposed of its shareholdings in Pioneer Concrete Services and Ampol, producing profits of Aus\$194 million, which were not included in the figures announced yesterday.

Mr Adler says the board considered the results were more than satisfactory.

Happy as Larry: Adler's firm did well in most departments

Holmes à Court now has 7% of Sears

By Cliff Feltham

Mr Robert Holmes à Court, the Australian entrepreneur, has strengthened his grip on the Sears retailing empire by lifting his stake from 5.6 per cent to just under 7 per cent.

But last night the chairman of Sears, Mr Geoffrey Maitland Smith, said he had still had no contact with Mr Holmes à Court's master company, the Perth-based Bell Group. "We have no idea what he is up to," said Mr Maitland Smith.

The equity stake now amounts to almost 104 million shares worth £168 million - with Sears shares up 1p at 163p yesterday.

In addition the Bell Group with its associate, JN Taylor, is interested in an extra 18.9 million shares - another 1.2 per cent - through put options written in the traded options market.

Sears, which owns Selfridges, Mappin & Webb, William Hill and Dolcis, is currently valued at about £2.5 billion and would present a formidable target for Mr Holmes à Court.

Analysts are inclined to believe that he has built up the stake purely as an investment. It is thought that Mr Holmes à Court has recognized that the group remains something of a slumbering giant in the high street and the possibility of a bid would cause the management to adopt a more aggressive outlook towards trading possibilities.

Sears has ruled itself out as a likely bidder for Storehouse but in its present expansionist mood would clearly be interested in picking up suitable parts of the business should a break-up eventually take place.

The main candidate for its attentions would be the Richards shops, seen as an ideal fit with its own Miss Selfridge chain.



Happy as Larry: Adler's firm did well in most departments

FT crosses the river

By Joe Joseph

The Financial Times, which sold its Bracken House headquarters in July for £143 million, has joined the newspaper exodus from the Fleet Street area.

Yesterday it announced it had settled on an office just south of Southwark bridge for its journalists, who will not be following the newspaper's new printing presses to London's Docklands.

The FT, which is owned by the Pearson publishing, banking and industrial group, is paying an initial £20 million, rising to £74.4 million, for the freehold building which is being developed by Regalian

It will move into the new office, called Horseshoe House, in early 1989.

The FT says the sale of Bracken House to Ohbayashi Corporation, the Japanese construction company, has financed almost the entire modernization of the FT, including the new Docklands production plant and its presses, the new editorial offices and the heavy redundancy costs that will be incurred.

Bracken House, near St Paul's Cathedral, has been the FT's London home since 1959.

Within NEDO, the closure of seven of the eight manufacturing Little Neddies appears to be causing the most anxiety. The one committee in the sector which will continue to be funded is that for food, drink and packaging

Taylor Woodrow disappoints

By Our City Staff

A £1 million boost from investment property sales was the principal factor lifting Taylor Woodrow's half-year profits to end-June up from £20.1 million to £21.2 million.

But this 6 per cent advance in pretax profits was below analysts' expectations, so the shares fell from 423p to 410p yesterday.

An interim dividend of 2.5p was declared, compared to a 1986 payment of 2.25p.

Sir Frank Gibb, the chairman and chief executive, stressed Taylor Woodrow's ability to produce a steady progression of earnings and dividends.

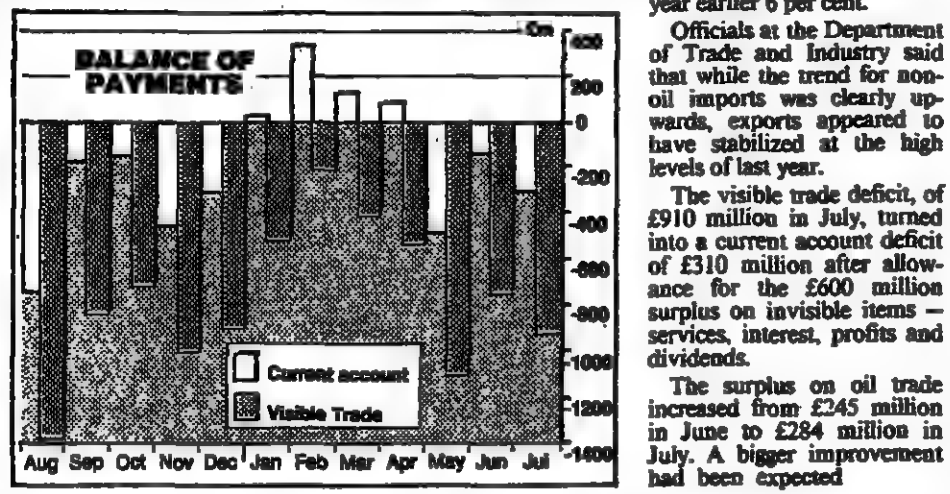
The steady rather than spectacular progress being made by Taylor Woodrow introduced a note of caution among City analysts. Before these results, a 14 per cent rise in profits this year was expected to be followed by growth of more than 20 per cent in 1988. These forecasts have now been downgraded.

Although Taylor Woodrow is maintaining margins at home, it is finding it hard to earn worthwhile profits overseas, along with other leading groups in the field.

A shortage of overseas work reduced the profits contribution but it was the slump in North Sea exploration-related work which pushed associates from a profit of £1.3 million to a loss of £516,000.

Taylor Woodrow is maintaining its interest in the concept of property utilization. Despite constant speculation, it is still not clear whether the group has plans to float any of its property development projects.

Tempus, page 20



BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul

Current account Visible Trade

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul

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US index suggests continued growth

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The US index of leading economic indicators, a barometer of the nation's economic activity, rose by a moderate 0.5 per cent in July, the Commerce Department announced yesterday.

The index rose in June at a revised 1 per cent, although the Commerce Department had previously reported that it had risen by only 0.8 per cent.

The July increase marked the sixth successive month of increase in the key index. This suggested continued economic growth, although at its present sluggish pace. The gain in July left the index at 191.8 (1967=100).

The last time the monthly index registered a decline was in January, when it fell by 0.6 per cent. Six successive increases were also made in late 1985 and 1986.

These gains have been cited as supporting evidence by some economists, who predict that the current recovery from the 1981-1982 recession should last through the 1988 election year.

The recovery is already in its 58th month, matching the previous record for a peacetime expansion.

The index, a composite of 11 forward-looking business statistics, received its biggest boost in July from a slowdown in delivery times to businesses. Slower deliveries are taken as a sign of increasing demand, a favourable sign for the future.

The equity stake now amounts to almost 104 million shares worth £168 million - with Sears shares up 1p at 163p yesterday.

In addition the Bell Group with its associate, JN Taylor, is interested in an extra 18.9 million shares - another 1.2 per cent - through put options written in the traded options market.

Sears, which owns Selfridges, Mappin & Webb, William Hill and Dolcis, is currently valued at about £2.5 billion and would present a formidable target for Mr Holmes à Court.

Analysts are inclined to believe that he has built up the stake purely as an investment. It is thought that Mr Holmes à Court has recognized that the group remains something of a slumbering giant in the high street and the possibility of a bid would cause the management to adopt a more aggressive outlook towards trading possibilities.

Sears has ruled itself out as a likely bidder for Storehouse but in its present expansionist mood would clearly be interested in picking up suitable parts of the business should a break-up eventually take place.

The main candidate for its attentions would be the Richards shops, seen as an ideal fit with its own Miss Selfridge chain.

Pickwick entertains double profits

By Alexandra Jackson

Pickwick Group, the home entertainment group whose debut on the stock market in May was 55 times oversubscribed, nearly doubled first half profits to end-June from £306,000 to £592,000.

Mr Ivor Schlossberg, the managing director, said yesterday he was confident the company would comfortably reach the £2.6 million pretax profits forecast for 1987 up from £1.6 million last year.

An interim dividend of 0.8p was declared.

Tempus, page 28



Confident: Ivor Schlossberg

British to the rescue at Newmont Mining

ConsGold may take on Pickens

By Colin Campbell

Consolidated Gold Fields is, for the second time in less than a year, centre stage of takeover speculation and being forced, much against its will, to take measures to protect its flank.

The ConsGold board was first put on alert last October, when the market activities of American Barrick Resources and its mysterious acquisition of a 4.99 per cent stake fanned full bid rumours. The bid never came. American Barrick, in the face of a near-doubled share price, sold out at a handsome profit. Peace returned.

Today it is the bid intentions of Mr T Boone Pickens, the Texan corporate raider, together with associates, towards Newmont Mining Corporation that is exercising the board's mind.

ConsGold has a 26.2 per cent stake in Newmont and a close working relationship with the Park Avenue, New York, resources group. It also has longer-term ambitions for what it sees as its main entry into the North American mining world. Newmont assets include gold, copper, coal, oil and gas, as well as a host of other mining-mineral interests on various continents.

But Mr Pickens, through Ivanhoe Partners, launched a \$95-a-share, all-

cash bid for Newmont on Monday and intimated that ConsGold could have a part to play. Although Mr Pickens has a corporate reputation of being an aggressive initial bidder who later bows out - superficially the loser, but because the candidates' share price has run, he secures a very handsome profit - this time Mr Pickens could be serious.

The finance for what would prove a near-\$6 billion (£3.68 billion) bid is said to be easily arranged and there is no shortage of willing buyers for the various parts of the Newmont empire.

Potentially interested parties for Newmont assets include Mesa Petroleum for Newmont's oil and gas interests; Galactic Resources for the gold; and Harbert Corporation for the Peabody coal arm. One wild card yesterday was Minorco, the Bermuda-registered arm within the South African Anglo American Corporation and holder of a 28 per cent stake in ConsGold.

If ConsGold hopes to protect its Newmont stake and fight against control of Newmont passing into other hands, it will either have to beat the Pickens camp to the 51 per cent mark or mount a bid itself. Mr Rudolph Agnew, ConsGold chairman, turned down Mr Pickens' request for a meeting two weeks ago when the raider first moved into

Newmont. He publicly declared continued support for Newmont and its management and said: "We have no wish to seek control of Newmont."

Given the formal bid on Newmont's table, ConsGold yesterday said it would respond to the Pickens-Newmont developments "in the next few days".

Whichever path ConsGold takes, it will cost a fortune. And for the second time in less than a year, suggestions of a ConsGold rights issue to give it the war chest it would need are the talk of the market. It would cost £1 billion just to lift its stake to more than 50 per cent with a partial offer at, for example, \$100 a share. At a time when ConsGold is anxious to develop its mining interests in its own fashion, Newmont developments can hardly be welcome.

It was only in March, with the interim figures, that ConsGold, after years of a same-same payment, was financially strong enough to raise its dividend. Results for the year ended June 30 are due for publication on September 15. The glory ConsGold might otherwise have expected in its own right is now likely to be overshadowed by one Mr T Boone Pickens - a name on Wall Street that sends shudders down companies' backs. He already has just under 10 per cent of Newmont and will not go away

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Lloyd's 1984 profits expected to be £300m

By Alison Eadie

Lloyd's insurance market will unveil its global results for 1984 tomorrow and according to outside estimates could show an overall profit of about £300 million compared with £179 million for 1983, excluding losses on the PCW syndicates.

Lloyd's traditionally accounts three years in arrears.

Chatset, a company publishing Lloyd's League Tables, estimates the 1984 net profit at £205 million, after deducting profit commission of about £90 million which Lloyd's leaves in its results, against £116 million in 1983.

According to both Chatset and the Association of Lloyd's Members, the outlook is brightening for names. Chat-

set estimates that the average cheque received by a Lloyd's name for 1984 will be £540 for a £10,000 share on a syndicate, a 50 per cent improvement on 1983.

It estimates a marginally worse result on marine syndicates of £1,190 profit against £1,330, losses on non-marine of only £80 compared with £690, a bumper payout of £1,500 on aviation against £910, and a poor motor performance showing losses of £690.

The ALM's 1984 syndicate results, which will be published in the next few days, tell a similar tale. It estimates names will receive cheques per £10,000 share for £1,518 on aviation syndicates, £1,279

on marine, £20 on non-marine and will have to stump up £715 on motor.

Both sets of results exclude PCW losses.

Chatset expects marine and non-marine to produce reasonable results for 1985 and excellent results for 1986. Marine will then be squeezed by too much capacity and too little business. Motor looks poor for 1985 and 1986, but should show some recovery in 1987. Aviation had a difficult 1985, but should have another bumper year in 1986.

Lloyd's 1983 results showed a pure underwriting loss of £114.7 million, the insurance market's third successive underwriting loss. The loss would have been a profit of

£28 million were it not for the appalling results of the PCW syndicates. The overall 1983 profit, including investment income, was £35.8 million, or £179.1 million excluding PCW.

Results for 1984 are expected to show the beneficial effects of reduced capacity and increased rates in the insurance market, which resulted from the previous years' underwriting losses. The effect is expected to increase in 1985 and 1986.

Chatset warns that a huge increase in worldwide insurance capacity in 1987 is already causing a softening of rates in some markets and it warns names that "storm cones should be hoisted".

Record fall in OECD shipping

By Rodney Cowton

Transport Correspondent

The shipping fleets of countries which are members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in 1986 suffered the greatest decline recorded in a single year.

But the fleets of developing countries achieved their target of accounting for 20 per cent of world tonnage, three years ahead of schedule.

Maritime Transport, the annual report on shipping, published by the OECD, shows that taken together the OECD member-states, which include the main countries of western Europe, plus the United States, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, reduced their fleet by nearly 11 per cent in 1986. All the major fleets of the OECD recorded very drastic cuts except for the United States and Australia.

At the start of the Seventies, more than two-thirds of world tonnage was under the flags of OECD countries, and last year this fell to under 40 per cent.

The developing countries achieved the target they had set at the end of the Seventies of nearly 20 per cent of the world tonnage by the end of the decade. Of the dry bulk carrier fleet they now hold 24 per cent.

Maritime Transport, 1986. Published by OECD, Paris.

News Corp in bid for Davies shares

The News Corporation, the Australian-based international television and publishing group headed by Mr Rupert Murdoch, has made an offer for the outstanding 41.7 per cent of Davies Brothers, a newspaper publisher based at Hobart, Tasmania. The News Corporation already owns 58.3 per cent.

The offer is \$A25 cash or one share of The News Corporation and \$A2 cash for one Davies share. The offer is part of a tidying up exercise after the takeover of the Herald & Weekly Times group. It comes after this week's offer for the outstanding minority in Advertiser Newspapers of Adelaide.

The offer must be accepted by at least 75 per cent of the minority shareholders to give The News Corporation the requisite 90 per cent it needs to purchase compulsorily the remaining shares.

COMMENT

Are markets heading for the Crash of '89?

During the relentless rise of share prices this year, few analysts have had the time or bravery to develop arguments challenging the fundamental basis of what has become the most spectacular bull market in recent history. BZW, whose stockbroking arm has over the years developed a reputation for penetrating long-term perspectives on financial markets, sounded a timely warning shortly before prices cracked in early August. Now Gordon Pepper, the monetary guru who is senior adviser at Midland Montagu, the securities arm of Midland Bank, has joined the ranks of the doomsters. At least one powerful reason for taking note of both lines of argument is that they are different. Had BZW and Midland Montagu arrived at an identical position by the same route, there would have been at least a possibility that both were misreading the same map.

Briefly, the BZW case rests on familiar equity market valuation tools such as the income differential available to holders of shares and government bonds, expected rates of corporate earnings growth, and the values investors implicitly attribute to current levels of company income. BZW and others have noted the current extent of the yield gap, and the fact that the dividend yield on broad market indices has slipped below even that available on index-linked gilts this year. This implies a great deal of confidence not merely on the future progress of share prices but also on the duration of the bull market.

The Pepper line of analysis stems, not surprisingly, from observations of the monetary phenomena associated with a long-run uptrend in equity values. He points to similarities with the rapid inflation of the early 1970s — in particular with strong growth of broad monetary aggregates such as the now-maligned M3 — and also what he sees as crucial differences. The most significant of these, says Pepper, is that the excess money created is being spent on assets, including financial assets such as shares, rather than goods and services, which was the case during the Barber Boom years. Further analysis leads to the conclusion that buoyancy of bank lending has been an important cause of the rise in the equity market, and that this has almost certainly given rise to the existence of a speculative bubble in which price levels are not supported by fundamentals.

It appears to be an increasingly common view that by historical standards of fundamental analysis the British equity market is highly valued and has been so for some time. This poses the seductive question, which incidentally seems to arise at the top of each bull market, of whether or not a more liberal valuation can be justified for some reason or other. Most oft-cited these days is the view that we may be coming into line with other leading markets around the

world in this respect. Perhaps, but on the Pepper reasoning, we are seeing the bubble growing bigger before it eventually collapses inwards upon itself. Anyone for the Crash of '89?

Trade doubts remain

The "What me worry?" reaction of the City to the long-awaited July trade figures suggested two things. First, the steady hands of the experienced fund managers were at work, having returned from holiday. Second, the detail of the figures was really as good as City analysts were suggesting yesterday afternoon.

Neither, unfortunately, appears to be true. The recovery in both gilts and equities, after an initial adverse reaction to the trade figures, came without any real buying interest from the institutions. As such, the recovery was less soundly based than it might have been. And the determination to pick up the good news in the trade figures was rather overdone. It is the case that a cumulative current account deficit for the first seven months, of £400 million, is hardly worth talking about. Even if the deficit for the full year turns out to be £2.5 billion, a Budget-time forecast which the Treasury was less eager to dispense with yesterday, that is only a half per cent of gross domestic product.

But the cut-off point for the balance of payments is not the end of the year. The external account will still be with us in 1988. And the underlying trends in the current account are disturbing. Broadly, imports are rising strongly, while exports are on a plateau. And invisible earnings, for long the saviour of Britain's current account, are not doing as well as looked likely a few months ago.

In the first quarter, for example, invisible earnings were only £1.6 billion, which, after the downward revision in last year's invisibles surplus to £7.5 billion, suggests that the Treasury's forecast of an £8.5 billion surplus for this year may be optimistic. The City may have fallen into the trap of relying too much on one month's figures. The July trade data did, indeed, show that the go-go areas for imports were capital equipment, raw materials and components, along with, of course, cars.

But one month's trade figures, even more than most official statistics, should not be taken in isolation. In the latest three months, if anything, the growth in the volume of consumer goods imports, including cars, outstripped other imports. And it is puzzling that a strong rise in capital goods imports should be a source of comfort. For, in a sense, such an increase reflects the capacity problem of British industry in its starkest form. Should not a greater proportion of the hardware needed to re-equip British industry be produced by British industry?

Pulp mill doubles to £5.3m

By Joe Joseph

Better world pulp prices, increased production and tighter cost control helped Eucalyptus Pulp Mills, which makes pulp from eucalyptus wood in Portugal, to more than double interim pretax profits from £1.98 million to £5.33 million. Turnover rose 25 per cent to £18.64 million.

Mr Paul Hyde-Thomson, chairman of the Bahamas-based company as well as of Ibbstock Johnson, the Leicester brick manufacturer which holds a 43 per cent stake in EPM, said: "The task now is to maintain this level of profits and to protect ourselves against the ups and downs of the pulp cycle."

He said the £27 million recently raised from a rights issue by Companhia de Celulose do Calima, EPM's principal subsidiary company, would be used "to invest in activities which will help to mitigate the cyclical nature of the pulp industry".

These activities are likely to involve processing Portuguese raw materials for exporting and the company is already considering one or two targets.

Earnings per share in the six months to June 30 climbed from 9.5p to 21.5p. There will be a half-year dividend of 2p against 0.6p previously.

Elders to list investment company in Hong Kong

From Stephen Leather

Hong Kong

Mr John Elliott, the Australian businessman, is to list a new HK\$4 billion (£315 million) international investment company on the Hong Kong stock market.

Mr Elliott said yesterday that a quarter of the shares of the newly formed Elders Investments will be offered to international investors. His flagship company, Elders LXL, will own the rest.

The new Hong Kong listing forms part of an important restructuring of the group, which has interests in brewing, finance and farming supplies, as well as a resources division with oil, gas and gold operations.

Mr Elliott hopes to raise HK\$975 million from investors in four regions: Hong Kong and Asia (excluding Japan), Japan, Australia and London. Mr Elliott hopes the shares will start trading by mid-October and he said that "at a later date" he will apply to have the shares listed in other leading financial centres.

Its initial assets will be equity stakes including 14 per cent of Elders Resources, 44 per cent of a US fruit juice firm, a commercial property development in Melbourne, and US\$230 million (£140 million) cash.

"Elders Investments will mainly take equity stakes in



Making changes: Elliott plans an important restructuring

businesses which are not part of Elders' core businesses," said Mr Elliott yesterday. "It's not our plan to manage them, but to identify unrecognized potential and in some cases provide strategic direction through board representation."

Mr Elliott joins Mr Alan Bond, the Australian entrepreneur, in moving his

investment arm to Hong Kong to escape Australia's 49 per cent capital gains tax.

Mr Andrew Cummins, director of strategy for the Elders group and the man behind Mr Elliott's takeover of Courage, the brewing group, last year, will become managing director of Elders Investments in Hong Kong.

Bardsey poised to resume dividends

By Our City Staff

Bardsey, the hand tool manufacturer and distributor, is looking for acquisitions and is holding out the prospect of paying its first dividend since 1983 now that it is back in the black. Its success follows a policy of selling off its loss-making industrial companies and concentrating on its core businesses.

Interim pretax profits recovered to £332,000 in the six months to June from a loss of £129,000 for the same period last year, on a turnover of £14.7 million.

The sale in July of Leylax, the upholstery manufacturer, marked the disposal of the last

of Bardsey's loss-making offshoots. The company now focuses on Rabone Chesterman, which makes hand tools, and RCF Tools, which distributes them.

Mr David Burnett, the chairman, said yesterday: "Gearing has been reduced to approximately 50 per cent from the 69 per cent level at the end of 1986. Bardsey is in a good position to make acquisitions complementary to the current business of the company."

Mr Harry Westropp, the managing director, said: "We have candidates we are investigating."

Fairfax alters bid for family firm

From Richard Battley, Sydney

Mr Warwick Fairfax has revised his Aus\$2.25 billion (£986 million) restructuring plan for his family's media group, John Fairfax, only 24 hours after it was made.

The adjusted terms will mean the issue of fewer shares in David Syme & Co, the wholly-owned Fairfax subsidiary, which Mr Fairfax proposes to offer to non-family shareholders of John Fairfax.

Rothwells, the merchant bank advising Mr Fairfax's Trust Proprietary, the bid vehicle, said the adjusted terms were in response to the enthusiasm the offer had generated.

The original offer had three options: \$Aus7.50 cash for each Fairfax share; three Syme shares and \$Aus4.50 cash for each Fairfax share; and 15 Syme shares for each two Fairfax shares. The adjusted offer deletes the third option.

The share price retreated to Aus\$8.40 from Aus\$9.20 after the first proposal, still above the \$Aus 7.50 offer.

Meanwhile, speculation continues that the head of Bell Group, Mr Robert Holmes & Court, and the former television network proprietor, Mr Kerry Packer, were planning counter-bids.

And then there was one . . .

The appointment of Sydney Lipworth as chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission from January 1 will herald the end of his working partnership with life assurance supremo Sir Mark Weinberg after almost 20 years. The two men, who began their friendship while at King Edward VII School, Johannesburg, went on to Witwatersrand University together, with Lipworth getting a double first in economics and law. Lipworth, aged 56, who went on to earn a reputation as a respected businessman and lucid communicator as well as a brilliant academic, followed his old school chum to London and in 1968 joined Weinberg's rapidly growing Abbey Life Group. The pair resigned in union two years later when ITT took absolute control and promptly founded Hambro Life — renamed Allied Dunbar after its acquisition by BAT Industries three years ago — which now has more than £5 billion under management in unit trusts, life assurance and pensions. Because the MMC post is full-time, Lipworth — who was head-hunted for the job by top recruitment agency Tysack & Partners — tells me that during the course of the next four months he will be resigning his directorships of Allied Dunbar, BAT and J Rothschild Holdings. "I have been with Allied Dunbar since the beginning so it is going to be a big wrench, but the company is in good shape which makes

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Voice of Donoghue

Faint praise, indeed. But whatever your stance, it must be conceded that the political comments contained in Kleinwort Greaveson's September *Equity Market Review*, from the hand of the firm's witty director Bernard Donoghue, ought to be better informed than most. Being a former adviser to Wilson, Callaghan and Gaitskill and still a faithful Labour Party member, Lord Donoghue's views are the antithesis of most in the

City and thus make refreshing reading. Describing the Alliance as "lost in the Gulf without a minesweeper", he says that the new SDP leader Robert Macleanman is an "honourable and worthy man, but not much more," adding: "Clement Attlee, without the charisma" would be our unkind comment. "A bit like describing someone as being like Sylvester Stallone but without the muscles."

it easier and this new opportunity is a big challenge," he says.

Bertie's bill

Did you know that wine gums — being sold as confectionery gums in Saudi Arabia in deference to Muslim laws — are the most energy intensive sweets produced? Or that liquorice allsorts are among the most expensive to make in terms of raw material costs? Bertie Bassett has been revealing these little known facts to explain the company's enormous electricity bill. With 2,300 employees producing 700 tonnes of sweets a week, Bassett Foods of Sheffield uses 11.5 million kilowatt hours of power a year and has just installed a series of "response" meters on production lines to show exactly where the power is being used so that better advantage can be taken of

cheaper tariffs. "Response meters will make real savings in manufacturing costs, creating increased profit, lower costs and consistent quality and competitiveness for the company as a whole," adds Bertie.



"Yes, we think we have the complete answer to computer theft"

Going bust

Wives could for once have good cause to be suspicious if their husbands announce they are off to the Institute of Personnel Management's annual conference in Harrogate next month. More sombre members of the Institute are said to be somewhat red-faced following a series of advertisements in two local newspapers — the *Harrogate Advertiser* and the *Knaresborough Post* — for "Busty Belles". Leaving little to the imagination the ad, which, I'm told, has been placed by one of the conference exhibitors, asks: "Do you fit the bill to become a Busty Belle? Are you looking for exhibition work? If you are 20-35, slim, and have a bust measurement of 36D or bigger, apply." With the 2,000 conference delegates now clamouring for tickets, a spokeswoman is quick to dampen their enthusiasm. "This is the first time we have heard of Busty Belles," she says. "We have no control over exhibitors but we would not wish to be connected with this type of thing."

Timing the experimental auctions for gilts is proving something of a headache for the Bank of England. Having altered the date for the next auction to September 23 from September 16 — to avoid the inevitable market nerves ahead of the September 18 money supply figures — the Bank now finds that the new date is the day before the next set of trade figures, themselves likely to be a cause of City jitters.

Carol Leonard

MORTGAGES

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Eurobond issue by China

From Stephen Leather
Hong Kong

Chinese financial institutions are expanding their fund-raising activities overseas.

China's first Eurodollar bond since 1949 has just been issued by Guangdong International Trust and Investment Corporation.

The \$50 million issue was the first offshore offering by a Chinese institution since the settlement in June of pre-1949 claims between the Bank of England and the Chinese Government over defaulted bonds.

Before the settlement the Bank of England prevented China from issuing bonds in London, the Central Market for Eurobonds, though China managed to tap funds in Frankfurt.

The GITIC issue is expected to be the first of a series of Chinese Eurobonds.

Meanwhile, the first Bank in Communist China not dependent on Government funds is issuing stock to the public.

The Bank of Communications in Shanghai has started to issue 100 million yuan (£17 million) of stock, the first issue of Bank stock since 1949.

The stocks, worth between 10,000 yuan and 100,000 yuan, pay the same interest rate as Bank deposits plus dividends linked to the Bank's profits.

Citicorp seeks European backing for \$1bn issue

From Nick Gilbert
New York

Citicorp executives have just returned from Argentina after sponsoring an expensive but hugely successful orchestral tour designed to improve the banking giant's image among its recalcitrant Latin debtors.

This week a Citicorp roadshow has moved to London where Mr Tom Jones, Citicorp's chief accounting officer, will have to show some neat footwork to entice European investors to buy a significant proportion of the bank's planned \$1 billion (£610 million) equity offering. S O Warburg has agreed to help in the underwriting.

The mega-offering, neatly planned for later this month, ahead of the BP sale, will be a true test of the global equity markets and of investors' response to the international debt crisis. Citicorp plans to sell 17 million new shares — some 4.5 million outside the US — to refill the big dent in common equity made when the bank added \$3 billion to its loan loss reserves in May.

Mr Jones is suitably cautious: "It would be premature to make a judgement since US banks have not issued equity for years, least of all on an international basis."

Wall Street analysts had expected Citicorp to build up equity via asset sales and higher retained earnings be-



John Reed: 'another pre-emptive strike'

fore an ambitious attempt to sell new shares. One analyst says Mr John Reed, Citicorp chairman, is following up his precedent-setting loss reserve boost with "another pre-emptive strike."

Other battered US banks would like to follow if the Citicorp issue takes off. But those in most need are unlikely to succeed. After heavy loan loss provisions in the second quarter, Bank of America's total equity to asset ratio tumbled from 4.1 to 3.1 per cent, that of Chemical Bank from 5.2 to 3.7 per cent, and of Manufacturers Hanover from 5.0 to 3.2 per cent. Shares in the first two are selling at way below book value, and Manufacturers Hanover at a fraction over.

Even the Citicorp issue is

showing signs of nerves. Merrill Lynch, the lead manager, revealed the US underwriters 10 days ago, but there was silence on the names of those brave enough to try to market the issue across the globe. Mr Jones filled in the blanks late on Friday. The European group includes, apart from Warburg (the only leading British house), Credit Suisse First Boston, Morgan Stanley, and Daiwa.

Citicorp does have a story to tell. It is working hard on debt-for-equity swaps in Latin America; domestic US earnings are booming; and the bank expects \$500 million from asset sales in the second half. All these should help trim the full-year loss to about \$1 billion.

Loss reserves, currently \$5 billion, are of considerable interest to investors, accountants and the US taxman. The second-quarter provision, which slashed reported earnings, made no difference to Citicorp's primary capital ratio. Equity fell but was more or less matched by the rise in provisions which the Federal Reserve includes as primary capital. Changes are underway, however.

The Fed and the Bank of England are near agreement on the treatment of bank capital and off-balance sheet items. It seems likely that the Fed will forbid banks from

including any additions to loss provisions in calculating primary capital ratios. That is a powerful reason for raising real equity now.

Apart from recognizing that most Third World debt will never be repaid, Citicorp and others are under additional pressure to turn provisions into real write-offs. In theory US banks can take a tax credit against those loss provisions in reporting results to shareholders. But the credit can only be deducted against Federal taxes paid, and since most banks have paid little US tax the book-keeping benefit has been limited.

With the taxman, who wants paying in real folding money, the reality is different. He has allowed little credit against tax for loss reserves, and after 1986's tax changes he will permit none. In his view, Brazil is still paying interest to Citicorp — even though in reality it is not.

In the taxman's eyes, Citicorp will report a substantial profit this year and pay substantial taxes. The more its domestic profits, in effect virtually the sole income, rise, the more tax it will pay. The only way in which the two different views of the world can be reconciled is for Citicorp and its US banking rivals to start turning provisions into write-offs.

Chief executive elect named at Hill Samuel Shipping

Hill Samuel Shipping Holdings: Mr Michael Steele becomes chief executive elect, to succeed Mr Michael Toogood on his retirement in 1988.

Reckitt & Colman: Mr AJ Dalby becomes a non-executive director.

Bird & Bird: Mr David Salt, Mr Justin Walkey and Mr David Kerr are named partners in the corporate services division.

British Adhesives & Sealants Association: Mr Colin Hall is elected chairman. Mr Harry Werrell is made vice-chairman.

Trans Global Air: Mr Brian Wyeth is elected director of operations and sales.

PLF Communications: Mr John Rodgers joins the board.

McAlpine Helicopters: Mr Cor Reichgelm is made managing director.

Horrocks & Co: Mr John Hicks joins the partnership.

Automobile Association: Mr RB Hurley becomes managing director and Mr GH Lowe director of AA Insurance Services. Mr RD Vaughan joins the board of AA Pensions Trustees and AA Executive Pensions Trustees.

Mr EH Garside is named as a director of AA Pension Investment Trustees. Mr MA Hoskins and Mr AD Johnson join the board of AA Travel Services. Mr DR Thomas joins the board of AA Developments. Mr DJ Hiddleston is

APPOINTMENTS



Charles Day: joins the Wessex Character board

made a director of AA Commercial Insurance Brokers.

Wessex Character Licensing: Mr Charles Day has been appointed marketing director.

Alpha Microsystems: Mr Mike Osler becomes a director of European operations.

Computations Structured Systems (UK): Mr Jeffrey Jenner joins as managing director. Mr Roy Stew becomes managing director of Computations BV.

JA Devenish: Mr Paul Smith becomes group managing director and Mr Philip Soek joins the board as group retail director.

Crown Agents: Dr Aylmer Ingram Leeson joins the board.

Ratners Group: Mr Nate



Mike Osler: director at Alpha Microsystems

Light and Mr Michael Weinstein join the board.

Booker: Mr Sandy Macpherson is made managing director of Tilhill Forestry. Mr Malcolm McAllister becomes managing director of Booker Farming.

Arthur Andersen: Mr Jonathan Bloomer, Mr Martin Fishman, Mr David Hughes and Mr Gerard Murphy join the partnership.

Bellwinch: Mr Stephen Matthews is elected a non-executive director.

Covey Advertising: Mr John Allan joins as account director.

Cadnetix Corporation: Mr Barrie Murray-Upton is made vice-president of European operations.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	Market rates	Market rates	Market rates
day's range	September 1	1 month	3 months
N York 1.8200-1.8400	1.8390-1.8400	1.8400-1.8390	1.87-1.8220
Montreal 2.1542-2.1614	2.1584-2.1614	2.1584-2.1614	2.1584-2.1614
Amr can 3.4820-3.4848	3.4820-3.4848	3.4820-3.4848	3.4820-3.4848
Brussels 61.44-61.81	61.61-61.81	61.61-61.81	61.61-61.81
C'poken 11.3802-11.4425	11.4240-11.4425	11.4240-11.4425	11.4240-11.4425
Dubai 1.1130-1.1173	1.1148-1.1158	1.1148-1.1158	1.1148-1.1158
Frankfurt 2.8996-2.9734	2.8991-2.9734	2.8991-2.9734	2.8991-2.9734
Lisbon 232.07-234.35	232.46-234.43	232.46-234.43	232.46-234.43
Madrid 190.75-199.58	190.75-199.58	190.75-199.58	190.75-199.58
Milan 2141.18-2154.83	2150.04-2154.83	2150.04-2154.83	2150.04-2154.83
Osaka 10.8058-10.8225	10.8058-10.8225	10.8058-10.8225	10.8058-10.8225
Paris 1.8899-1.9237	1.8899-1.9237	1.8899-1.9237	1.8899-1.9237
St Louis 10.4024-10.4548	10.4024-10.4548	10.4024-10.4548	10.4024-10.4548
Tokyo 231.35-232.88	231.35-232.88	231.35-232.88	231.35-232.88
Venice 20.80-20.97	20.80-20.97	20.80-20.97	20.80-20.97
Zurich 2.4390-2.4641	2.4390-2.4641	2.4390-2.4641	2.4390-2.4641

Sterling index compared with 1975 was up at 72.5 (day's range 72.5-72.8).

OTHER STERLING RATES	DOLLAR SPOT RATES
Argentina austral 3.7044-3.7200	Ireland 1.4870-1.4700
Australia dollar 0.7788-0.7820	Italy 1.1000-1.0940
Banque d'Alger 0.5140-0.5180	Japan 1.5130-1.5140
Brazil cruzeiro 80.4241-80.8649	Netherlands 1.7178-1.7183
Cyprus pound 0.7794-0.7850	Poland 1.2170-1.2175
Finland markka 7.1817-7.2002	Sweden 4.3700-4.3750
Greece drachma 225.58-225.54	Switzerland 1.8757-1.8773
Hong Kong dollar 12.7792-12.7887	West Germany 1.8132-1.8139
India rupee 15.16-15.36	Yugoslavia 1.4550-1.4590
Kuwait dinar KD 4.4585-0.4605	Belgium 1.4550-1.4590
Lebanese pound 1.1152-1.1152	Denmark 1.4550-1.4590
Malaysia dollar 2.275-2.2425-0	France 1.4550-1.4590
New Zealand dollar 1.0715-1.0715	Germany 1.4550-1.4590
Saudi Arabia riyal 2.275-2.2425-0	Italy 1.4550-1.4590
Singapore dollar 1.4550-1.4590	Japan 1.4550-1.4590
South Africa rand (m) 3.5040-3.5080	Belgium (Comm) 1.4550-1.4590
Spain peseta 166.64-166.64	Hong Kong 1.4550-1.4590
U A E dirham 3.6520-3.6525	Portugal 1.4550-1.4590
Lloyds Bank	Spain 1.4550-1.4590
	Austria 1.4550-1.4590

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOPEX and Exel.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES					
Three Month Sterling	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Sep 87	89.40	89.47	89.25	89.47	1081
Oct 87	89.34	89.34	89.20	89.34	3118
Nov 87	89.30	89.30	89.25	89.30	3118
Dec 87	89.26	89.26	89.21	89.26	3118
Jan 88	89.22	89.22	89.17	89.22	3118
Feb 88	89.18	89.18	89.13	89.18	3118
Mar 88	89.14	89.14	89.09	89.14	3118
Apr 88	89.10	89.10	89.05	89.10	3118
May 88	89.06	89.06	89.01	89.06	3118
Jun 88	89.02	89.02	88.97	89.02	3118
Jul 88	88.98	88.98	88.93	88.98	3118
Aug 88	88.94	88.94	88.89	88.94	3118
Sep 88	88.90	88.90	88.85	88.90	3118
Oct 88	88.86	88.86	88.81	88.86	3118
Nov 88	88.82	88.82	88.77	88.82	3118
Dec 88	88.78	88.78	88.73	88.78	3118
Jan 89	88.74	88.74	88.69	88.74	3118
Feb 89	88.70	88.70	88.65	88.70	3118
Mar 89	88.66	88.66	88.61	88.66	3118
Apr 89	88.62	88.62	88.57	88.62	3118
May 89	88.58	88.58	88.53	88.58	3118
Jun 89	88.54	88.54	88.49	88.54	3118
Jul 89	88.50	88.50	88.45	88.50	3118
Aug 89	88.46	88.46	88.41	88.46	3118
Sep 89	88.42	88.42	88.37	88.42	3118
Oct 89	88.38	88.38	88.33	88.38	3118
Nov 89	88.34	88.34	88.29	88.34	3118
Dec 89	88.30	88.30	88.25	88.30	3118
Jan 90	88.26	88.26	88.21	88.26	3118
Feb 90	88.22	88.22	88.17	88.22	3118
Mar 90	88.18	88.18	88.13	88.18	3118
Apr 90	88.14	88.14	88.09	88.14	3118
May 90	88.10	88.10	88.05	88.10	3118
Jun 90	88.06	88.06	88.01	88.06	3118
Jul 90	88.02	88.02	87.97	88.02	3118
Aug 90	87.98	87.98	87.93	87.98	3118
Sep 90	87.94	87.94	87.89	87.94	3118
Oct 90	87.90	87.90	87.85	87.90	3118
Nov 90	87.86	87.86	87.81	87.86	3118
Dec 90	87.82	87.82	87.77	87.82	3118
Jan 91	87.78	87.78	87.73	87.78	3118
Feb 91	87.74	87.74	87.69	87.74	3118
Mar 91	87.70	87.70	87.65	87.70	3118
Apr 91	87.66	87.66	87.61	87.66	3118
May 91	87.62	87.62	87.57	87.62	3118
Jun 91	87.58	87.58	87.53	87.58	3118
Jul 91	87.54	87.54	87.49	87.54	3118
Aug 91	87.50	87.50	87.45	87.50	3118
Sep 91	87.46	87.46	87.41	87.46	3118
Oct 91	87.42	87.42	87.37	87.42	3118
Nov 91	87.38	87.38	87.33	87.38	3118
Dec 91	87.34	87.34	87.29	87.34	3118
Jan 92	87.30	87.30	87.25	87.30	3118
Feb 92	87.26	87.26	87.21	87.26	3118
Mar 92	87.22	87.22	87.17	87.22	3118
Apr 92	87.18	87.18	87.13	87.18	3118
May 92	87.14	87.14	87.09	87.14	3118
Jun 92	87.10	87.10	87.05	87.10	3118
Jul 92	87.06	87.06	87.01	87.06	3118
Aug 92	87.02	87.02	86.97	87.02	3118
Sep 92	86.98	86.98	86.93	86.98	3118
Oct 92	86.94	86.94	86.89	86.94	3118
Nov 92	86.90	86.90	86.85	86.90	3118
Dec 92	86.86	86.86	86.81	86.86	3118
Jan 93	86.82	86.82	86.77	86.82	3118
Feb 93	86.78	86.78	86.73	86.78	3118
Mar 93	86.74	86.74	86.69	86.74	3118
Apr 93	86.70	86.70	86.65	86.70	3118
May 93	86.66	86.66	86.61	86.66	3118
Jun 93	86.62	86.62	86.57	86.62	3118
Jul 93	86.58	86.58	86.53	86.58	3118
Aug 93	86.54	86.54	86.49	86.54	3118
Sep 93	86.50	86.50	86.45	86.50	3118
Oct 93	86.46	86.46	86.41	86.46	3118
Nov 93	86.42	86.42	86.37	86.42	3118
Dec 93	86.38	86.38	86.33	86.38	3118
Jan 94	86.34	86.34	86.29	86.34	3118
Feb 94	86.30	86.30	86.25	86.30	3118
Mar 94	86.26	86.26	86.21	86.26	3118
Apr 94	86.22	86.22	86.17	86.22	3118
May 94	86.18	86.18	86.13	86.18	3118
Jun 94	86.14	86.14	86.09	86.14	3118
Jul 94	86.10	86.10	86.05	86.10	3118
Aug 94	86.06	86.06	86.01	86.06	3118
Sep 94	86.02	86.02	85.97	86.02	3118
Oct 94	85.98	85.98	85.93	85.98	3118
Nov 94	85.94	85.94	85.89	85.94	3118
Dec 94	85.90	85.90	85.85	85.90	3118
Jan 95	85.86	85.86	85.81	85.86	3118

Tax aid urged to beat hi-tech skills shortage

By Robert Matthews

Tax incentives, not Government cash, are needed to overcome Britain's chronic shortage of trained information technology (IT) staff, according to a survey of more than 400 computer companies by the National Computing Centre.

The NCC commissioned the survey two years ago to find the scale of the IT skills shortage, which it believes is a more significant obstacle to the effective use of information technology than either a shortage of finance or lack of awareness.

The surveyed companies — which include suppliers and users of computer equipment — believed the skills in shortest supply were those needed to develop software for specific tasks or hardware and project management.

Companies in the South-east were the worst hit. The NCC said: "The shortage is the result of a widespread failure to recruit trainees and retain existing employees. They are aggravated by high staff turnover as employers bid against each other for skilled and experienced staff."

The survey showed that companies were doing little to rectify the situation because of the time training required, rather than the cost. The fear of loss through poaching was a compounding factor.

Both information technology users and suppliers believed strongly that tax incentives for employers to undertake more staff training was the best approach to tackling the shortage. Government

ment spending should be directed towards giving employers a better idea about the quality and relevance of the training courses available.

A solution to staff poaching, backed by a clear majority in the survey, was the suggestion of repayment of training costs by those who recruited staff from firms who trained them.

The NCC report gave warning that, although information technology skills shortages and high staff turnover had been problems for more than two decades, they were increasing and their impact on the national economy was becoming more pressing.

The IT Skills Shortage. National Computing Centre, Oxford Road, Manchester, M1 7ED. Price £25.

Fermenta insider inquiry

From Christopher Mosey

Mr Robert El-Sayed, the Egyptian businessman who was forced to relinquish control of Fermenta, the Swedish pharmaceutical company, after a series of scandals, is being investigated for alleged insider dealings on the Stockholm stock exchange. If found guilty, he could face a two-year jail sentence.

Mr Hans Lindberg, the public prosecutor, said that seven other former members of the Fermenta board were also subjects of the investigation, launched this week.

He said Mr El-Sayed and two others were suspected of selling Fermenta shares at a high price, knowing that a drastic fall in value was imminent.

Five other Fermenta board members were suspected of failing to notify share dealings to the Swedish bank inspectorate, Mr Lindberg said.

Meanwhile, Gotabank, the Swedish bank, applied for Mr El-Sayed to be declared bankrupt, a procedure which would strip him of all his personal assets.

Trans Resources, the US company, has withdrawn its bid for Fermenta.

Fermenta has been banned from trading on the Stockholm stock exchange and Mr El-Sayed was forced to relinquish control of the company after admitting irregularities in its administration.

University vacancies

The Times Degree Course Vacancies Service continues today with university and polytechnic vacancies in medicine, dentistry, subjects allied to medicine, biological sciences, agriculture, communications, education and art.

The information is compiled by The Times Network Systems from data published by the Universities Central Council on Admissions (UCCA) and the Polytechnics Central Admissions System (PCAS).

The figures in brackets following each course title indicate the course code used

by UCCA and PCAS and will help students now in the clearing system to determine whether the course listed is similar to their original choice.

TTNS also offers its 4,500 subscribers access to the "Universities A-Z" published by The Times from June 22-27. To find out more about TTNS services write to PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1 9EZ.

If the course you are looking for is not listed here, call UCCA's information line on 0272 217244 or PCAS on 0272 217721.

Accounting (A100): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

Accounting and Finance (A101): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

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University News

The Times Degree Course Vacancies Service continues today with university and polytechnic vacancies in medicine, dentistry, subjects allied to medicine, biological sciences, agriculture, communications, education and art.

The information is compiled by The Times Network Systems from data published by the Universities Central Council on Admissions (UCCA) and the Polytechnics Central Admissions System (PCAS).

The figures in brackets following each course title indicate the course code used

by UCCA and PCAS and will help students now in the clearing system to determine whether the course listed is similar to their original choice.

TTNS also offers its 4,500 subscribers access to the "Universities A-Z" published by The Times from June 22-27. To find out more about TTNS services write to PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1 9EZ.

If the course you are looking for is not listed here, call UCCA's information line on 0272 217244 or PCAS on 0272 217721.

Accounting (A100): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

Accounting and Finance (A101): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

Accounting and Finance (A102): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

Accounting and Finance (A103): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

Accounting and Finance (A104): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

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Accounting and Finance (A109): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

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Accounting and Finance (A119): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

Accounting and Finance (A120): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

Accounting and Finance (A121): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

Accounting and Finance (A122): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

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Accounting and Finance (A126): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

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Accounting and Finance (A141): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

Accounting and Finance (A142): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

Accounting and Finance (A143): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

Accounting and Finance (A144): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

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Accounting and Finance (A151): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

Accounting and Finance (A152): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

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Accounting and Finance (A155): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

Accounting and Finance (A156): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

Accounting and Finance (A157): Cardiff; Leeds; London; Liverpool; Newcastle; Nottingham; Oxford; Reading; Southampton; Stroud; Warwick; York.

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Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code	Price
1	Tomkins (F&N)	Industrials S-Z		
2	BAT (as)	Tobacco		
3	Comet Bros	Chemicals/Pharm		
4	Calder Allen	Banking/Discount		
5	ML Higgs	Industrials L-R		
6	Robert Johnson	Buildings/Roads		
7	Jerome (S)	Textiles		
8	Dubilier	Electricals		
9	Strong & Fisher	Shoes/Leather		
10	Wilkes (James)	Industrials S-Z		
11	Coastline	Chemicals/Pharm		
12	Capital & Gen (as)	Insurance		
13	Garrett Nat	Banking/Discount		
14	Dunhill	Drugs/Stores		
15	Costa Vignali (as)	Drugs/Stores		
16	Wendover	Drugs/Stores		
17	Com Union (as)	Insurance		
18	BICC (as)	Electricals		
19	Lees (John J)	Food		
20	Nest (as)	Drugs/Stores		
21	British Gas (as)	Oil & Gas		
22	Ratners Group	Drugs/Stores		
23	HK Shanghai	Banking/Discount		
24	Pilkington (as)	Industrials L-R		
25	Argyll (as)	Food		
26	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D		
27	Clare Prop	Property		
28	Unigate (as)	Food		
29	Home Farm	Food		
30	Unilever (as)	Industrials S-Z		
31	Boon (as)	Industrials A-D		
32	Cost Stationery	Industrials A-D		
33	Woodward (as)	Drugs/Stores		
34	Lee Jell	Leisure		
35	Plassey (as)	Electricals		
36	Banks (Refinery C)	Food		
37	Dalrymple (as)	Industrials A-D		
38	Blue Circle	Buildings/Roads		
39	Greycoat	Property		
40	Br Petroleum (as)	Oil & Gas		
41	P & O Ltd (as)	Shipping		
42	Meyer Int	Buildings/Roads		
43	Arlington Secs	Property		
44	Cambridge Inst	Electricals		

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Stock Price Divs YTD

SHORTS (Under Five Years)		
1	100	100
2	100	100
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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

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UNDATED

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MEDIA & MARKETING

Rattled by the
ricochetsOPINION
Michael Winner

If in order to conquer you must first divide, then Mrs Whitehouse, Gerald Howarth, MP, and other pro-censorship people must be laughing fit to bust at the leaders of British television scrapping for the title of "Mr Clean-Up 1987".

For years they boasted - I think rightly - of the pre-eminence of British television. Now, as the echoes of shots fired in Hungerford ricochet over them, they vie to take off more programmes than the TV-chap next door.

As in any panic, the results are highly inconsistent. A 20-year-old Western, *Nevada Smith*, goes: the professional killer in *Day Of The Jackal* stays. Jeremy Isaacs, the man who started the demands for a TV spring-clean when he showed *Scarface* and *Jubilee* on Channel 4 a couple of years ago, applauds Michael Grade for postponing some violent programmes and then asks "How did they get on in the first place?"

They got on, of course, because they were much the same as those seen everywhere else in the free world; and when they were scheduled Grade had seen off (partnered by me, I admit) two attempts to re-define obscenity in law, and thought that everything would carry on as usual.

Anyone who seriously believes that violence would flee the land if British TV were tuned down a bit should have heard, and heeded, the BBC Radio offering *Peaky Blinders* and *Scarface* last week. It detailed, in a fashion that would have had it banned from TV like lightning, the unspeakable horrors of yobbo attacks, the police no-go areas at the turn of the century.

There were no films around then, no TV, no *A-Team*, no *Rambo* and no *Mary Whitehouse*. Just people afraid to go out, two thousand child brothers in London, and Jack the Ripper on the loose.

How, you might wonder, did they manage it without Grade and Isaacs to egg them on? It would be said it was a matter of victim of

Hungerford were our freedom to view material that the Swiss, Dutch, French and all the others can see. Are we really a nation so susceptible to *Starsky And Hutch* that we must be forbidden sight of it? And heaven help us if we imported our TV programmes from Japan, as we seem to import everything else. There, people are garrotted in detail for breakfast viewing, and yet their crime-rate is one-tenth of ours.

The law since 1959 has said, that if anything does harm (depraves and corrupts) it can be banned. Juries have banned some things, let others go. There have been recent attempts to change the definition of obscenity: the last one, offered by Howarth with Home Office backing, was talked out in committee. It would have banned anything grossly offensive to a reasonable person. So shots of concentration camps, or stadium disasters, or the Academy Award winning *Platoon* would have been out.

In her manifesto, Mrs Thatcher promised to bring television under the Obscene Publications Act. The question is which Act? The 1959 one, or a new one designed to clean us up? Since she voted for both new attempts to tighten up, only the most optimistic would believe it was to be the 1959 Act.

If our TV chiefs cannot sing in harmony, they will lead themselves, and the rest of the arts with them, into a long, lonely, dark age of censorship. And if history is anything to go by, the muggers and villains will not be affected at all.

Michael Winner is a film director whose work includes the *Death Wish* series.

As the *Sunday Sport*
prepares to go daily,
Marcel Berlins looks
at its chances in the
tough tabloid market

They all laughed when *Sunday Sport* first hit the news stands in September last year. From the stable of soft-porn magazine publisher David Sullivan, it provided an unashamed diet of naked and near naked women, interrupted by short punchy stories about sex and a few about sport. The very title of the paper was a computer-suggested play on the sexual meaning of the word "sport". The paper would fold within weeks, some experts confidently predicted.

They are no longer laughing. The low-cost, small-staff, low-profile *Sunday Sport* approaches its first birthday with an independent circulation of just over 500,000 copies and has been in profit for the last six months.

The success has persuaded Sullivan to give the English public more of the same on a daily basis. The new title (which will not necessarily be the *Daily Sport*) is planned for early next year. And this week, *Sunday Sport* is expected to announce the identity of a financial partner for the new venture.

Rumours have included, among the big newspaper publishers, Robert Maxwell (but *Sunday Sport* deny ever having negotiated with him).



and Associated Newspapers, owners of the *Daily Mail*. But it is more probable that the mystery partner will be a magazine publisher wanting to enter the newspaper world. EMAP, which publishes a number of trade magazines, is known to have had talks with *Sunday Sport*. So have United Newspapers, owners of the *Express* group.

Michael Gabbert, editorial director of *Sunday Sport*, stresses that whoever it is will be a minority partner. The amounts involved are not huge by the standards set by launches of dailies like *Today* or *The Independent*. The new daily can probably be started for a few million pounds.

The company has already bought the premises and presses of the



Gabbert: 'Brash, fun and vulgar'

Morning Star on Farringdon Road, for £2.5 million, though it is not sure that it will move in. "It will depend on our printing arrangements. The *Morning Star* presses may not be compatible," Gabbert says. The daily will be 28 to 32 pages and sell

at around 20p. It will, Gabbert promises gleefully, be "brash, raunchy, fun, bubbly and vulgar". In other words, the *Sunday Sport* formula, all done with a journalistic staff of fewer than 100, many of them rewrite sub-editors, to serve both papers.

"We are going for the reader of popular tabloids," Gabbert explains. "I think that the kind of paper we will be publishing will have an eventual natural circulation level of up to two million."

If the daily is to achieve sales anywhere near its targets, it will have to take at least a million readers from the existing tabloids, a task which seems impossible. *Sunday Sport's* 500,000 sale amounts to less than 5 per cent of the combined

sales of the *News of the World*, *Sunday People* and *Sunday Mirror*. The same proportion of the combined sales of the *Sun*, *Mirror* and *Star* would give the daily *Sport* something like 450,000 sales. Even a low-cost operation will find it hard to make a profit on that circulation.

Advertising revenue, too, is at stake. The goods and services offered in *Sunday Sport* are predominantly based on sex and titillation - erotic phone services, sex videos, sex aids and pornographic magazines. There are no advertisements for cigarettes, cars, hi-fis, and the other mainstays of normal newspaper advertising.

Gabbert is not worried. Sex advertising, he says, is showing enormous growth, and he is confident that the new paper will be able to get a fair slice of mainstream advertising.

Opinions among media directors of advertising agents differ. "Advertisers will take a cold, hard-headed analytical business view," one said. "If the paper brings in the numbers, it will get the advertising. When you are aiming for the popular market the main factor is the number of people you are reaching. After all some of the soft-porn magazines have no trouble attracting 'respectable' advertising."

But Steve Cleak, media group head of Ogilvy & Mather, thinks that the new daily's prospects of becoming a popular mainstream advertising medium are limited. "If *Sunday Sport* is anything to go by, the new daily will be closer to certain kinds of magazines than to a newspaper."

(Times Newspapers Ltd 1987)

Clubbing together to beat the squeeze

The bastions of British publishing have fallen one by one to foreign buyers in recent months. Now British book clubs are also in foreign hands and the UK book trade is worried.

Next month the West German media conglomerate Bertelsmann and the French group Presses de la Cité will take control of Book Club Associates (1.9 million members) and Leisure Circle (200,000-plus, recruited by

door-to-door salesmen), which between them account for about 90 per cent of UK book clubs' sales of £100 million a year.

Bertelsmann and Presses de la Cité already jointly operate France's largest book club, France-Loisirs, with 4.5 million subscribers. And Bertelsmann's holdings in Europe and the US make it the world's biggest book club operator.

To Bertelsmann, Britain is full of potential. The British

Alarm bells are ringing in Britain's
book trade as two European groups
snap up a big chunk of the market

clubs' combined membership of 2.5 million and 10 per cent share of the UK book market scarcely measures up to West Germany's four million-plus subscribers or the 7.5 per cent share of French book sales enjoyed by France-Loisirs.

"We believe in the book club market and we think it can be extended," says Dr Manfred Herriger, director of Bertelsmann book club.

What alarms UK publishers, and the rival book club Readers' Union, is that the

new grouping may decide to exploit its virtual monopoly.

"There is a risk of them trying to keep down the rates they pay publishers," says Clive Bradley, chief executive of the Publishers' Association.

David St John Thomas, chairman of Readers' Union, says there are already signs of closer co-operation between BCA and Leisure Circle. He has threatened to go to the Office of Fair Trading if the two try to squeeze his club -

the smallest, with 200,000 members, and the oldest (50 next month).

But, although Dr Herriger says Bertelsmann has no desire to damage a competitor's business, UK publishers believe the new group may be less reluctant than BCA's former joint owners, W.H. Smith, to wield its formidable power.

Nick Higham

(Times Newspapers Ltd 1987)

BBC APPOINTMENTS

POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT
External Services
Central London

The Bush House Newsroom is looking for a political correspondent. The post is an influential one because the correspondent's work is heard worldwide by an audience of 125 million.

You will report on and analyse British political events in a clear and compelling manner and will have, as necessary, through Westminster, Whitehall, the party conferences and constituencies, as well as abroad. Duties include filing copy for the news bulletins, providing voice reports for *Radio Newsweek*, *Twenty Four Hours* and *Newsdesk* on the World Service, as well as taking part in other programmes at Bush House and throughout the rest of the BBC.

This is an excellent opportunity for an established political correspondent who wishes to develop a broadcasting career or an accomplished broadcaster who wants to become a lobby correspondent. Salary will be according to qualifications and experience. (Ref. 4180/T)

BROADCAST
JOURNALISM
Cardiff

Radio Wales News is offering an opportunity to a lively, versatile journalist to join the team which is responsible for the preparation and production of bulletins, news specials, the 4.5, 6 daily sequence and the weekly current affairs programme *Eye* on Wales.

Your duties will reflect this wide coverage and include sub-editing, studio production, use of newsroom computer, briefing of correspondents, reading of voice reports and some reporting in the field. You should have proven journalistic experience with sound editorial judgement and be able to work quickly and accurately under pressure. A well informed interest not only in Welsh affairs, but also in UK and international news, is essential. A current driving licence is required. Salary £10,881 - £15,388, plus an allowance of £624 p.a. (Ref. 4211/T)

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Relocation expenses considered. Contact us immediately for application form (quote appropriate ref. and enclose s.a.e.) BBC Appointments, London W1A 1AA. Tel. 01-227 5799.

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for
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Write to Michael Maddox, Editor and Associate Publisher, The Oilman, Maclean Hunter House, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters Road, Barnet, Herts EN4 8BU.

(Maclean Hunter has recently moved into new offices located 50 yards from Cockfosters underground station on the Piccadilly line.)

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Responsibilities will include print origination, co-ordination of dealings with design and production services, commissioning of sleeve notes and translation, and editing all printed material required by the company.

The ideal candidate will have had experience working in the record/classical music business or in publishing. An excellent working knowledge of classical music and records is essential. A knowledge of French German would also be a definite advantage. Salary negotiable.

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In addition to advising on the development of arts policies and the promotion of arts activities in Liverpool, the successful candidate will be expected to liaise with other Council departments, local groups and arts bodies; monitor the performance of grant-aided arts organisations and make recommendations regarding financial assistance and identify training needs, prepare reports and compile publicity. Applicants should have appropriate academic qualifications and experience. APPLICATION FORMS, RETURNABLE BY 18TH SEPTEMBER 1987, OBTAINABLE FROM THE CITY LIBRARIAN, WILLIAM BROWN STREET, LIVERPOOL, L3 8EW. (051 207 2147).

The City Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages applications from disabled persons. The City Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages applications from disabled persons.

LIVERPOOL City Council

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SECRETARY

The College is a professional organisation conducting examinations for doctors wishing to specialise in obstetrics and gynaecology.

The Assistant Examinations Secretary will be required to assist with the organisation of the College Membership and Diploma examinations which are held in the United Kingdom and overseas. Applicants should have a secretarial or administrative background and be at least 25 years of age. The person appointed will be required to work to deadlines. The salary will be £9,127 to £10,952 according to age and experience.

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سكنا من الامن

Ringling in the news

Andrew Lycett

This is the kind of news coverage that will come under the microscope of a new bi-weekly editorial review board to be chaired by Neil, whose

With the pool working efficiently, Neil plans to launch a series of new programmes to draw on the expertise. The net result will be substantially more BBC airtime devoted to news and current affairs. Foreign reporting in areas such as Europe, India and

The BBC finally offered him work not as a cameraman, but as a television reporter. His break came when he was sent to Lime Grove on a production attachment, on the day *Nationwide* went on the air. The revolutionary news format was a shock to BBC traditionalists, and no one at Lime Grove wanted to work on it. Neil found himself virtually in charge of studio direction from day one. It was a crash course in television, and he has never looked back.

Higher price

The Independent is about to introduce a 2p price rise and a new advertising campaign, sticking to its "It is. Are

you?" slogan despite a change in advertising agency, as it strives to reach its break-even target.

Briefly...

London's cable TV companies will launch a new PR campaign in three weeks' time to help get support from the public, the CMA and advertisers to back the immediate £500 million unbbling of London... *Commercial* is a new A3 format monthly magazine about TV ad production to be launched in November by the Editorial Company. It will be edited by Peter Burt, former chair of the Creative Review. The Independent Programme Producers Association has accused ITV of shelving a report by National Economic Research Associates which, contrary to the commercial companies' hopes, shows Britain has enough production facilities to allow independent producers to supply up to 25 per cent of the companies' programmes... Gus Macdonald, director of programmes at Scottish Television, said last week that if the independents are granted their 25 per cent quota by the Government, then the five biggest ITV companies should make less network programmes and give more power to a new broader "cabinet" of commissioners of ITV shows, to protect the production ambitions of the regional stations.

Glossy humour

A new national glossy humor magazine, published 10 times a year, is to be launched on October 14. Stephen Caplin, the editor and publisher, claims *The Truth* will be one of the first national glossies produced by "desktop" computer technology. Contributors will include stars of the booming alternative cabaret circuit and writers from Channel 4 comedy shows.

Unlike the new fortnightly rival to *Private Eye*, *The Digger* - to be launched by John Mulcahy, the Irish publisher, in October - *The Truth* claims to be aiming at 18 to 40-year-old readers with no print equivalent of their favourite TV shows.

Higher price

The Independent is about to introduce a 2p price rise and a new advertising campaign, sticking to its "It is. Are

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Applications in writing to:
Mrs. Elizabeth A. Gray,
Personnel Officer,
Grampian Television PLC,
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The Publisher, CFF Ltd, Richard Bence,

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This successful applicant will be experienced in all aspects of
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MILLER MCNISH

PA SECRETARY

c£11,500

No SH required for this interesting position with a changing investment

portfolio based in Victoria. In addition to good basic skills, accuracy,

organisation and a sense of humour are essential.

01 486 7887

Cavendish Personnel

LA CRÈME

APPEARS ON PAGE 8

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

P.A. TO CHAIRMAN

Our client, a high-profile international financial services organisation, is seeking a committed and professional Personal Assistant of the highest calibre for their Senior Partner.

He is highly respected and well-known in the City, a charming man with a keen sense of humour and diverse interests. He relies heavily upon his PA to deal with the most senior level contact within the UK Group and overseas offices, therefore the ability to assume an executive role, combined with excellent interpersonal skills and presentation, is essential. The routine work will be delegated to a junior secretary, thus releasing the PA to maintain the smooth running of his office.

The successful candidate will be educated to a minimum 'A' level standard, possess skills of 100% and have a solid track record in the financial world. Applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

MacBlain Nash
CITY
Recruitment
Consultants

Please
Telephone
01-439 6477

PA/SECRETARY
TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

W.C.1. up to £11,000 p.a.

This is a prestigious position, which will provide the right opportunity if you are seeking a challenging job where you can use your initiative.

You must have excellent shorthand and typing skills, and have the adaptability to work our comprehensive WP System (for which training will be given). In addition, you must have a lively sense of humour, and able to work under pressure.

As this is a full P.A. role, you will become involved in all aspects of the Institute's work, working closely with the Chief Executive. We are looking for someone who would normally command a much higher salary in the private sector, but who is attracted to working in a major national charity.

Full C.V. please to the Personnel Officer, The Royal National Institute for the Deaf, 105 Gower Street, London, WC1R 6AH or telephone 01-387 8033.

THE ROYAL NATIONAL
INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

The RNID is committed to Equal Opportunities, and particularly welcomes applications from deaf & hard-of-hearing people

SAVILLS

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Savills rapid expansion has created a number of superb openings for both young and more experienced secretaries. We can offer rewarding jobs with client contact at all levels in young dynamic teams. Enthusiastic and committed secretaries will be given involvement together with the opportunity to use their initiative and develop administrative responsibilities. Current openings include:

PA/SECRETARY TO DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Very busy senior position for an experienced secretary based in our Finsbury Circus office. Proven board level abilities essential together with use of shorthand, audio and Wang. Position also involves working for assistants from time to time.

DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY

Also based in Finsbury Circus working for young commercial director and his assistant in hectic team. Good opportunity to take the next step to being a P.A. Excellent audio and preferably Wang required.

We offer highly competitive salary packages and would welcome general enquiries.

Applications and enquiries should be made in writing, stating the sort of opening sought and accompanied by a full curriculum vitae.

Please write to the Personnel Manager, Christine Townsend at:

01-499 8644 20 Grosvenor Hill, London W1X 0HQ

Management Consultancy
c.£14,000 + benefits

This highly prestigious consultancy requires a secretary to support a Senior Director. Excellent skills required (100% WP), plus confidence to liaise effectively at senior level and a professional approach to work. Age indicator: 35-45.

Music Minded
to £13,000

The Senior Director of a multinational organisation affiliated to the music industry needs a top-level PA. Since the work involves frequent international contact, knowledge of European languages would be desirable, coupled with confident shorthand and WP skills. Preferred age: late 20's.

Personnel Secretary
to £12,000

Working for part of an internationally renowned company at UK head office in Slough, your role will be 50% secretarial/50% administrative. You will need good typing and WP skills - (shorthand and/or French an asset). Preferred age: 22-30 with degree of very good 'A' levels.

Hampstead
£10,500

Assisting with European VP of this US firm which designs and markets computer games, your role will be largely administrative - looking after the building, office supplies, organising temporary assistance, etc. Informal, friendly but hard-working people. Preferred age: mid-late 20's with good typing/WP skills plus confidence, intelligence and boundless energy!

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS
7 PRINCESS STREET, W11 0JZ

Step Into Personnel

College Leaver - £8,000

This is an exceptional opening for a Graduate college leaver. As Personnel Assistant in this rapidly growing City company you will gain first-hand experience of personnel administration in a dynamic international environment. The role is multi-faceted and includes: co-ordination of staff visits (liaising with the Stock Exchange etc); contact with interviewees and agencies; reference letters; personnel files etc. Excellent prospects. Good typing essential. For details please call 01 493 7577

GORDON YATES

LEARNING
CURVES

£17,000

The highly successful international company is looking for an executive secretary to provide comprehensive back office support to its senior Directors.

He/she will be responsible for managing the company's extensive international travel arrangements, liaising with the various airlines, hotels and car hire companies. The successful candidate will be a graduate with a minimum 'A' level standard, with excellent shorthand and typing skills, and a proven ability to deal with a wide range of people. The position offers excellent career prospects and a competitive salary.

You will need to use your charm and experience when dealing with the clients of the company, and the ability to deal with a wide range of people.

If you are keen to learn and take full responsibility for your work, then this is the job for you.

Age 25-35. Sals 10/50

CITY OFFICE

726 8491

ANGELA MORTIMER

RESERVATIONS
ASSISTANT

required at the Churchill Clinic, an 80 bedded private hospital opposite the Imperial War Museum.

The appointee will assist the Reservations Manager in the day-to-day administration of in-patient bookings, which involves close contact with patients, consultants and their secretaries and all hospital departments. Previous experience in a busy medical environment essential.

Attractive salary - negotiable.

Please telephone the Reservations Manager, Miss M. Eyles, for an application form and job description: 01-328 5633 ext. 201.

Senior Secretary

Required for International Company in City in financial services market. Computer experience an advantage.

Salary according to qualifications and experience.

Please apply in writing to:

Graham Cook:

c/o Jamaica Buildings,

St Michaels Alley,

Canal,

London EC3V 9DS.

EXPERIENCED
RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY

required for Holborn office. Smart appearance essential, knowledge of Cheetah telex preferred (will x-train), good accurate typing.

Salary £9,000 neg as

Jennifer Claydon on 430 1831

(No agencies)

CONSERVATIVE MP

Seeks intelligent and personable secretary for interesting and rewarding job at Westminster. Shorthand, audio and WP experience essential. Salary c.£12,000.

Phone 219 4494 for further information

INTERESTED IN PERSONNEL

£12,000 + excellent benefits

The personnel director of an international company is looking for an experienced PA/secretary. Income level is £12,000 + excellent benefits. Important meetings and lunches and expect the job to take on increasing projects. 100% WP and WP experience required. This is an excellent opportunity to further develop your personal role.

TRADING PLACES

c.£10,000 + mortgage subs

Take this opportunity to become a secretary/trading assistant to a manager and a team of traders within the financial department of a leading City bank. Get involved in extensive international phone liaison, travel arrangements and admin projects. 50 wpm Typing needed. Excellent prospects envisaged.

Please telephone 01-240 3531
Salary/benefits negotiable.

Elizabeth Hunt

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No hassles. No let-downs. Just plain, simple high grade temping.

A tasteful package of top jobs, elite rates and thoroughly professional service

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GERMAN BI-LINGUAL
IN DESIGN

A tremendous opportunity for a bright 2nd jobber to work for the Marketing Team of this International Design Consultancy. You'll need fluent German, able to think and act fast and the ability to work under pressure. Liaise with advertising agencies, clients, press and PR. Organise and attend exhibitions and conferences and provide full secretarial support. Call Stella Fischer.

STELLA FISCHER

01-436 6551

CHARTBUSTERS POP
RECORDS & FILMS

c.£9,500

This young trendy Record/Film Company needs a Shortland Secretary to the Head of the Music Division. Lots of client contact, the opportunity to get out of the office, promotions and screenings and involvement in promoting up and coming bands and musicians make this an opportunity not to be missed. Call Pamela Price.

STELLA FISCHER

01-436 6551

EXEC PA
£11,500

MANAGERIAL ROLE

Supervise 4 secretaries, manage and edit the company news letter, and generally run a busy lively department for this thriving Computer Company. Excellent prospects. With typing and WP knowledge. Call Lynn Lait.

STELLA FISCHER

01-436 6551

THE CONSULTING GROUP
LIMITED

LONDON NEW YORK

TOKYO HONG KONG

City based international consulting firm now interviewing for the following positions:

SENIOR OFFICE MANAGER: 5 - 10 years' administrative experience including working knowledge of IBM PC, bookkeeping, personnel supervision and general office management. Strong WP skills required. Must be detail orientated and able to draft and edit correspondence. Hours 9.00 am - 6.00 pm.

SENIOR RECEPTIONIST: 2 - 5 years' experience including some knowledge of Plessey systems, guest reception. Light typing, proofreading and ability to organise details required. Hours+ 8.00 am - 4.00 pm.

CATERING MANAGER: 2 - 5 years' general office experience with catering or related background. Must order, inventory, serve and clean-up light lunches, tea and drinks. Hours 11.00 am - 7.00 pm.

PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST: 2 - 5 years' experience. Hours 3.00 pm - 7.00/8.00 pm.

ALL applicants must have professional appearance and demeanour, excellent phone manner and A levels. Our environment requires a take-charge initiative, flexibility and willingness to work long hours. Non smoking. London residents strongly preferred.

We offer competitive salaries, BUPA, luxury offices and challenging growth opportunities.

Please call Miss Ledbetter 01 374 6422

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Largest Direct
Marketing Co.

Needs you!

Bayswater

£9,750.

This exciting dynamic company needs a bright and enthusiastic audio/secretary to work for some of the top people in the business. You'll need a strong personality to cope with the pressures.

Work involves a little audio and some IBM Displaywriter.

Lots of opportunity for involvement.

STELLA FISCHER

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Career Drive?

Marketing—£11,000

This is a young company with an explosive growth expected by the City in the last two years and now set for an even more exciting future.

They foster and promote talent. Their Marketing Director is a good example—one of the fastest-moving young executives in the City. Can you see your name in a role which includes customer liaison, marketing, public relations etc?

Good organisational abilities? Good in a team and at a self-starter? Excellent audio/visual and let of attention? This could be your chance in a future City today. 01-400 1242

Permanent Consultants
to the Communications Industry

WORK
STUDY

Secretaries step into the media spotlight

Approach the media specialists and you could land a top secretarial job in film, TV, PR, design, publishing or advertising. We have parts on offer for highly skilled and motivated applicants and career advice for the less committed.

In this business, it's who you know that counts; get to know us on 01-499 6566.

The GROSVENOR Bureau

MARKETING SECRETARY

Prestigious hotel group

To work in the busy Marketing Department of Cunard Hotels, the Ritz and the Stafford. Fast accurate typing, no shorthand. Strong organisational ability, efficient and a clear fast brain. Would suit a Graduate or mature secretary wishing to learn marketing skills in a hectic environment. Energy and enthusiasm essential. £8,500 p.a.

Apply in writing to

Elizabeth Black, Marketing Manager, Cunard Hotels, 9 Park Place, London SW1



COUNTRY HOUSES ASSOCIATION SECRETARY

Bright, capable secretary required to work with the Chief Executive of a country house with historic houses and the provision of residential accommodation and services. Applicants must possess good educational background, organisational ability, a pleasant manner and first-class audio/typing and W.P. skills.

Please send c.v. to R D Brady Esq

COUNTRY HOUSES ASSOCIATION, 41 Kingsway London WC2B 6UB.

RECEPTIONIST/ TYPIST

Required by a rapidly expanding Property Development Company. We are looking for an experienced person to run our new office in Docklands, which is within easy access of Tower Bridge tube. Duties would be interesting and varied. To start as soon as possible with a salary of £8,000.

Please apply to D Light on

228 5296 or 350 0274

PA Audio Secretary

Excellent opportunity for bright, alert young secretary to get into a true PA role working for two dynamic partners in this international service organisation. You will become fully involved in their work be able to build a rapport with their key clients and assist in the development and implementation of the firm's services. Your day will be fun, but also busy and demanding so plenty of stamina and a sense of humour is essential. Company offers excellent benefits including paid overtime.

Please call us on 01-499 9175

FINESSE APPOINTMENTS

SMALL COMPANY

In W1 seeks bright and experienced PA to run office (25+). Shorthand, typing and W.P. (Wordstar 2000) required in this varied job. Salary: circa £10,000 p.a. Please telephone Elizabeth Plewman on 935 5566.

SUPER JOBS!

Small, friendly insurance brokers close to Victoria Station require self-motivated, articulate and well-presented individual for administrative/secretarial position. Insurance or word processing experience a benefit. Salary: £8,000 p.a. Telephone 01 730 1912

PRESTIGIOUS ANTIQUE DEALERS, SW1

Intelligent Sec/PA with sense of responsibility and initiative, who is not afraid of figures, required to administer and assist in a friendly and often hectic environment. 23+ No Sh/Hand. Salary: £8,000 p.a. Write with cv to: BOX A97.

YOUNG BRIGHT SEC/PA £17,500

Aged 20-30, sophisticated, intelligent, well presented Secretary/PA required for Young Managing Director/Entrepreneur. Must be prepared to work long hours where personality is of equal importance to the necessary abilities.

Applicants must live in Central London.

Salary £17,500 neg p.a., company motor car and/or clothes allowance for suitable applicant.

Please write in strictest confidence with age, experience and a recent photograph to Box No. B24.

NO SHORTHAND? to £13,000

Then see this very successful company as PA/Secretary in their dynamic managing director. You will enjoy a very varied PA role and any languages, particularly French or Spanish, would be a great asset. 50 wpm typing ability and W.P. skills needed.

RUN THE SHOW £15,000

Our client, a small trading company needs a senior secretary to run their busy office. You'll have your own minor secretary to assist you and will be responsible for all office administration. You should have a calm, confident manner and 80 wpm skills.

Please telephone 01 240 3531

Early/late appointments arranged

Elizabeth Hunt

Recruitment Consultants
18 Grosvenor Street London W1

Instant Happiness!

Start today at the top! As a highly experienced Secretary with good speeds 100/80 and an easily applied experience of Word Processors and PCs we offer you:

- highly competitive rates to £7.50 per hour
- a selection of top assignments in every category
- a truly caring and professional service
- assignments with Permanent Potential
- your pay in the current week.

Join us now. Please make your first contact with Frances or Vanessa.

01-589 8807

JOYCE GUINNESS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS - 21 Brunton Avenue, Kew/Slough TW9 3WS

RUN THE OFFICE

£15,000 SW1
Six young traders need someone calm and mature to organise their hectic busy office, arrange travel, visas, average sh, and similar experience useful.

Successful Architectural practice need young efficient PA with good all round skills to run the office, arrange travel, visas, average sh, and similar experience useful.

01-730 5148 (Rec. Con.)

JAYGAR

TOP LEVEL MEDICAL SECRETARY

Urgently needed by professor in charge of growing medical research establishment in London hospital. An excellent salary is payable according to age and experience.

For further information please telephone 01 737 0656

MARKETING SECRETARY £11,000

for International sports/development company in W1. Bright, energetic, organised individual with excellent skills: W.P./shorthand - languages - able to work within fast growing American group of companies involved with sports marketing, sports facility management and development.

Call Helle 01-408 1225 or 491 0252

CHAIRMAN LEVEL PA DRIVE TO WORK!

£11,000+ NEG
An articulate friendly PA with good skills (100/80) and a variety to assist the Chairman. Must be able to work on own initiative, pre 24-35. Free parking in a famous cosmopolitan house.

PERSONNEL ASST/PA TO £10,000

Excellent opportunity for a young person with a genuine interest in Personnel. People to assist in the recruitment of staff. Must be able to work on own initiative and be a team player. Salary £8,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to: JANE CROTHWAITE, 21 Brunton Avenue, Kew/Slough TW9 3WS.

EXEC PA'S £10-12,000

Two Personal Assistants age 20-30 for 2 young Partners within this prestigious, sociable co. You'll need to be articulate, able to work on own initiative and take on responsibility in this lively environment. Salary £8,500 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to: JANE CROTHWAITE, 21 Brunton Avenue, Kew/Slough TW9 3WS.

For full details on any of the above ring Jane 01-408 1225 or 491 0252

Kingland Pers Cons

LAMBETH PLACE PERSONAL SECRETARY

required to work for Archbishop of Canterbury's Administrative Secretary. Good educational qualifications essential. The position requires shorthand, typing and audio skills. Salary range £8,500-£11,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Salary negotiable. Tel: 01-499 9175

ASSISTANT WANTED

Intelligent, hard working and conscientious assistant required with fashion admin/ clerical experience. Must be willing to tackle any task and become a valuable asset to the company. Salary negotiable. Tel: 01-499 9175

PUBLIC RELATIONS SECRETARY

Salary £8,000 plus 60p a day LVs. The General Secret of the University needs a friendly, efficient and organised person to assist in the day to day running of the office. Must be able to work on own initiative and be a team player. Salary £8,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to: JANE CROTHWAITE, 21 Brunton Avenue, Kew/Slough TW9 3WS.

MANAGING DIRECTOR TOP FASHION HOUSE

Requires very efficient shorthand. Telephone 01-499 9175

SECRETARY/PA to £10,335

(Main grade III, now under review) The Rector of the Polytechnic of Central London needs a capable and friendly senior secretary to handle a substantial and often confidential workload.

The work is varied and will involve pressure, but PCL offers 25 days leave p.a., annual increments in pay, and an interesting institution in which to be.

Application form and further particulars are available from: The Personnel Department, 309 Regent Street, London W1R 8AL. Telephone 01-580-2021 x 2095.

Closing date: 18 September 1987

PCL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

SECRETARIAL ANGEL

A good secretary is made in heaven but down to earth. We are down to earth W1 ex-secretary with 100/80 wpm skills, excellent shorthand, and a complete recruitment service, including lots of typing and occasional relief telephone work.

Age is immaterial but you will be a non-smoker with a minimum of 55 wpm and be able to compose your own letters and C.V.s. Salary is £9,000 to £10,750 including bonus.

Be an angel, contact Virginia Dwyer and find out about our place! Menzies & Womenwork Exct., 207 Regent Street W1, 01-499 6031

HIGHWAY 100/80 WPM EXCELLENCE

Shorthand and W.P. skills and a secretarial

ANTHONY COOK BUREAU

Holborn Viaduct ARE YOU AMBITIOUS?

A young, expanding Recruitment Consultancy needs a bright, enthusiastic assistant for the bright, enthusiastic basic secretarial skills and a sense of responsibility needed in order to assist in the running of the office. Lots of client contact and telephone work. Excellent prospects for the right applicant. Starting salary £8,000, but show us you're worth it and the sky's the limit.

Please telephone 01 248 3404/3329

DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY/PA

We seek a bright, competent secretary/PA to assist a busy director in our expanding property agency based in Mayfair. Excellent secretarial (min 80 words per min audio typing) and administrative skills required along with organisational flair.

4 weeks holiday, season ticket loan, and generous salary. Tel: 01-493 8424 for further details

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY

Expanding financial services company with offices near Putney Bridge station seeks additional experienced secretary to join closely knit team. WP skills essential - preferably 100/80. Competitive salary offered. Hours could be flexible.

Please write with cv to The Personnel Office, Investments Limited, The Kite House, 210 New Kings Road, SW6 4NZ.

CIRCA £12,000 Bilingual PA (French)

PA to American and Dutch businessmen in international Bank based in Mayfair. Ability to assist the Director in his own initiative and be a team player. Salary £8,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to: JANE CROTHWAITE, 21 Brunton Avenue, Kew/Slough TW9 3WS.

RECRUITMENT

Call Anne or Dawn on 01 493 0346

SENIOR RECEPTIONIST IN WESTMINSTER

Experienced and mature, aged 25-40, must be well presented and articulate to set an example. Superb reception area. No shorthand or typing. £9,000+ p.a. Phone Mrs Byzantine NORMA SKENP Personnel Services 01-222 5091

WC2 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Requires Administration Manager (25+) with W.P. experience for office job with lots of variety. Ability to organise and work on own initiative essential. Please telephone Miss Paul 01-499 9175

PART-TIME ASSISTANT

Young experienced sales person required for part-time work in an international wine company. Must be able to work on own initiative and be a team player. Salary £8,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to: JANE CROTHWAITE, 21 Brunton Avenue, Kew/Slough TW9 3WS.

Ring Sarah or Tracey on 01-373 1250.

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ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT TEMPING?

Temping can be impersonal. You can end up feeling like a number without a name.

When you work for Seer as a temporary secretary, you can be sure that we have your interests at heart - we can open doors to some of the best jobs in London.

If you have accurate shorthand and sound WP experience particularly IBM Displaywriter/Wang, you could be earning up to £7.50 per hour.

We take the time to give our temporary secretaries a caring and professional service.

At Seer we remember your name...

Please call Camilla Arnold on 01-631 0479.

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SEER

"WE'LL PUT TEMPTATION YOUR WAY"

With our exciting variety of bookings in Advertising and Public Relations and Regular bookings. We have openings for Shorthand and Audio Secretaries with WORD PROCESSING EXPERIENCE ON WANG, DISPLAYWRITER, DECIMATE, OLIVETTI, MULTIMATE AND ALL OTHER SYSTEMS.

"TEMPTED"?

Ring LAURA or JOANNE on 01-496 6951 NOW!

STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

01-496 6951

SUMMER MADNESS TO £7.50 PH

We have many temp bookings for senior SH/ Audio/ WP secretaries with 100/80 wpm. If you have Wang IBM PC/ Displaywriter, Olivetti 350/351 or any other WP experience, please call us now to join our friendly professional team. Ring Sally Owens or Sarah Cowan on 01 235 0393 4 Port Street, London SW1.

K NIGHTS BRIDGE SECRETARIES

6 WEEK booking starting this September for Senior SH/ Audio/ WP secretaries with 100/80 wpm. If you have Wang IBM PC/ Displaywriter, Olivetti 350/351 or any other WP experience, please call us now to join our friendly professional team. Ring Sally Owens or Sarah Cowan on 01 235 0393 4 Port Street, London SW1.

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Temps

If you are looking for:

- Good rates
- Variety
- Regular assignments
- A friendly service

And if you have:

- Excellent shorthand
- Fast typing
- Good audio
- Proficient WP

Call us today!

You could be working tomorrow!

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS

7 PRINCES STREET, W1 01-499 7852

Temps

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- Good rates
- Variety
- Regular assignments
- A friendly service

And if you have:

- Excellent shorthand
- Fast typing
- Good audio
- Proficient WP

Call us today!

You could be working tomorrow!

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CALLING ALL TEMPS

SOMERSET & AVON

Valley and
a dining
ly room, 3
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28 miles
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breakfast
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ss. double
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28 miles

75 miles
Represent
and in
al views

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SALIS

Superb three level
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with double
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study, utility room
and carpet, curtains
To view or

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INTERESTING FARM PROPERTIES

**WANTED
APARTMENT**
PBB Belgravia.

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bathrooms.
kitchen, din-
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It is close
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01 365

PROPERTY
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PLANTATION, F.
Lake-side bungalows
along views available
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bedroom, 2 bath
superbly fitted
shower swimming
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RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Going west — at a price

People have been heeding the advice to "go west" for a long time, not least from London and the home counties. As the M4 has stretched into the distance, and trains have speeded up, so property has become more in demand and more expensive in Berkshire, Wiltshire, Somerset and now Devon and Cornwall.

While commuting from Cornwall is only for the few eccentrics, it is becoming more acceptable from Devon, particularly for anyone within easy reach of Exeter. With a rail journey time of about 2½ hours, a commuter can be in London by about 9am without a too devastatingly early start. From Plymouth, taking one hour longer, it will be a dedicated commuter who rises from his bed in time to catch the 5.40am train.

For these people, however, the benefits are a home in the relaxing countryside of Devon, which, like Cornwall, is providing second homes as people look beyond areas nearer London.

Fox and Sons' Exeter office notes a desperate shortage of property in the upper price range around £100,000, which can in many parts buy a substantial house and two or three acres. It has dozens of cash buyers waiting for the right property, predominantly from the South-East, mostly for early retirement or as second homes. Stags, one of the leading agents in the area, has seen residential prices rise in the last year by around 20 per cent.

A regional guide of the country house market, published by Country Life with Knight Frank and Rutley, shows that prices in Devon and Cornwall have increased by a little more than 30 per cent since 1981, lower than the UK average of nearly 100 per cent, but gathering momentum.

Outside the South-East, the rate of price increases in the South-West is, probably second only to East Anglia.

The range of properties available is wide, from converted barns and redundant churches to the listed period country house. All are in demand.

Fox and Sons' Okehampton office is selling a converted church, St Michael's, in the unspoilt mid-Devon hamlet of Holcombe, 12 miles from Okehampton. Converted by the present owners,



Converted: St Michael's church in Holcombe, mid-Devon, now has a kitchen-breakfast room, large lounge, four bedrooms and an asking price of £297,500

The stone church was built by the Earl of Portsmouth's estate between 1886 and 1892 and has a rare "saddle-back" bell tower, which has not been converted, and could offer further accommodation.

Retaining its architectural features, the property has three reception rooms and four bedrooms and stands in about half-an-acre. The asking price is £297,500.

Little Seaside, south of the National Trust village of Branscombe in east Devon, a few minutes from the sea, is believed to date back to the 11th century.

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

and is recorded in 1120 as being a salt-maker's house, at a time when the valley would have been tidal. The cottage, which may over the years have provided two homes, has been modernized to form one property, keeping the exposed beams, ceiling and wall timbers.

It has four bedrooms and four reception rooms, stands in about half-an-acre, and Fox's Sidmouth office is asking for offers over £225,000.

The Old School House at Linstead, one of the county's most attractive villages close to the Dartmoor National Park, has been converted with the

adjoining school house into one large residence. The adaptable accommodation includes an entrance conservatory, 33 ft living-room, three reception rooms and four bedrooms. The agent's Exeter office is asking £140,000.

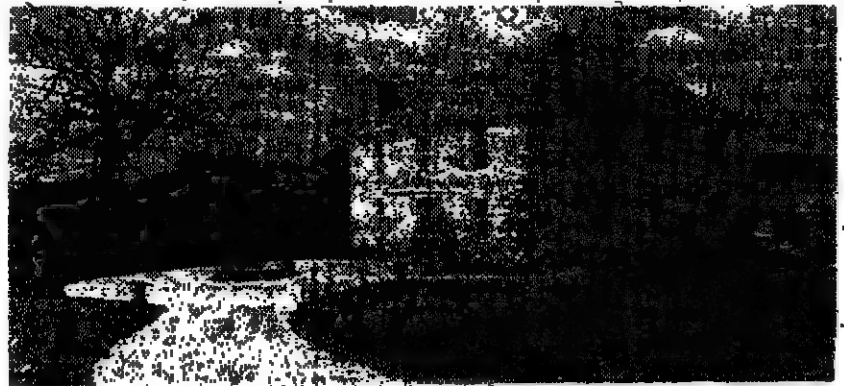
Near Tiverton, Somerset, is Woodhayne Barton, a fine Regency house with five bedrooms, two reception rooms and a large farmhouse kitchen. It is set in one acre close to the National Trust's Blackdown Hills, with the possibility of acquiring a further 20 acres. This modernized house is on offer at around £200,000 through Jackson-Stops and Staff's Exeter office.

Stratton and Holborow offer through their Exeter office a couple of properties at Bovey Tracey and Budleigh Salterton. Cross cottage at Bovey Tracey, on the fringes of the moorland, is a Grade II listed house of stone and cob dating from the late 17th century with three reception rooms, an artist's studio and eight bedrooms. The asking price is £170,000.

Little Knowle House, near Budleigh Salterton, dates from the 1820s and retains many of its period features. With three reception rooms and five bedrooms, its price is £180,000.

On the Devon and Somerset border at Shillingford, near Tiverton, is Hayne Barton, a well-restored 16th century longhouse, with a cider barn forming an annex, set in nearly three acres and within five miles of Exmoor. This fine example of the more prosperous 16th century farmhouse has three reception rooms and six bedrooms, and outside loose boxes, walled garden and paddock. Stags' Tiverton office ask £180,000.

The same agents are selling Bamfylde House at Poltimore, near Exeter, an elegant early 19th century Grade II listed country house, set in 18 acres, and demonstrating the fine upper end of the market. Built around 1810 of stone and brick, it has three reception rooms, eight bedrooms, including a possible self-contained flat, a former coachman's cottage, cobble courtyard and stabling. Price, £350,000.



Regency residence: Woodhayne Barton, a five-bedroomed house near Tiverton, Somerset, includes double-bank fishing in the river Cule. Price around £200,000

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A man of pace who turned to filibustering

Bridgetown

It took a little while to reconcile the two images. The great West Indian fast bowler of the sixties — a run-up of several hundred yards, a swiftness of bowling action, the white shirt (they didn't wear silly tea-shirts then) — the buttoned to the navel, the gold cross bouncing between those soup plate pectorals — that was Wes Hall, that was.

The honourable Wesley Hall, the Barbados Minister for Sport and Tourism, with his neat, grey side whiskers, his soberly cut suits, his balding pate, and his air of immense, unforced certainty, seems quite another person. The contrast between the two is delightful.

Few top sportsmen go into politics. For some reason, it is a road very little travelled. You might have thought it a natural one: a liking for public acclaim, highly-trained, competitive instincts and a thirst for visible achievement are shared by politicians and sportsmen.

And if the popular sportsman ever does move into the politics of politics, he has the best sort of start imaginable.

Hall was one of the few who decided not to leave politics to the doctors and lawyers. He had begun a more conventional career for an ex-sportsman of stature, working for Banks, the local brewery, and leading a cricket tour or two.

As a local notable, he said: "I had the opportunity to



Hall: a feared fast bowler

criticize both political parties, and took advantage of it. So everyone thought, there's a great guy!"

In 1981 he joined the Senate, the Barbados upper house. He lined up with the Democratic Labour Party, rather than the more Conservative Barbados Labour Party.

"When you go into party politics, you keep your sporting popularity," Hall said. "But only with half the people."

He was one of only two opposition men in the Senate. It was to be a crash course in political nous.

"I had to debate every issue, everything that came up," he said. "There were 48 of them and two of us. You think my run up was long? You should have heard my speeches! One time I spoke for 10 hours — after that they changed the rules of parliamentary procedure, and two hours is all you can have."

In 1986, Hall's party won the election. He was elected to the lower house, the House of Assembly, equivalent to the House of Commons. Erskine Sandford, the new Prime Minister, invited Hall to become Minister for Sport and



Simon Barnes

Tourism. The strategy is to connect the two sporting festivals that will bring in the punters are being planned with great energy.

Sport is not always a matter to be written off as a triviality, especially not here. "It is cricket, more than anything else, that has demonstrated that the West Indies can be a force to reckon with in the world," Hall said. "And it is cricket that is the best unifying force in the West Indies. Five million people go crazy over West Indian cricket, to be uplifted or dejected as they hear the results."

The islands of the West Indies seem much of a maleness to the average white Brit, but histories, traditions, origins, accents, music and jokes are all different on each island. Inter-island rivalries are natural and inevitable, but cricket can unite them.

Hall would like to see far more unity — in particular, unity over the ever-troubling South African issue. When the West Indian rebels came back from South Africa, some islands banned them from all cricket, others banned them only from representative cricket.

Domestic cricket is still available to Barbadian rebels. "There was a lot of sympathy for the rebels, actually," Hall said. "They were great cricketers, frustrated because they could not get into the West Indian side — remember, the West Indian side just picked itself at the time."

"But it is important to understand the deep feelings we have in the West Indies about the plight of the black man in Africa. The papers, television and radio all follow events in South Africa very closely." It is also vital for white Brits to understand that for the West Indies, apartheid is not a political abstraction. It is something they must take personally.

"I would not have gone to South Africa," Hall said. "I made up my mind about that when I was in Rhodesia in 1962. To go and play in South Africa, I would be an honorary white. Well, I'm not an honorary white, and never will be. I would not be an honorary white to go to heaven. I'll be a super black man if you want."

"But what the West Indies need is a unified approach. Your Robin Jackman was not allowed in Guyana, because of his South African connections, but he was acceptable here. I would like to see all the West Indian nations work closer together on this and all other sporting issues."

"But it is important for you to realize that the idea of your cricketers going out to coach in South Africa does not go down well in the Caribbean. It is an issue that still could cause the feared black-white split between cricketers, nations, and it put next month's World Cup in danger. The point is that the blight of apartheid must be erased from all sport."

Amen to that.

GOLF: ECKSTEIN JOINS LANGER AS A WEST GERMAN REGULAR ON THE EUROPEAN TOUR

A passing stranger no more

By Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent

Neither Mark McNulty's record-breaking victory in Frankfurt nor Tony Jacklin's Ryder Cup announcement could camouflage the real meaning of the German Open to a nation eager to leave its golfing infancy.

Oliver Eckstein, a name unfamiliar outside his native West Germany, did far more than just finish sixth. He provided concrete evidence that the game popularized in his country by Bernhard Langer is now making significant progress.

Eckstein, who will be 19 on Saturday, idolizes Langer. He told John Jacobs four years ago, at a golf class at La Manga, in southern Spain, that "one day I will be like Bernhard. I will do it. I will get there."

It was at La Manga last November that Eckstein suffered the most depressing moment of his fledgling career. After 108 gruelling holes at the PGA European Tour qualifying school he lost the chance of holding a player's card for 1987 when Todd Meena, the American, beat him in a play-off for fifteenth place, by holing a 20 foot birdie putt.

Chances restricted by failure at La Manga

Consequently Eckstein has had only two opportunities to tee his ball up on the tour this year. He played all four rounds in the Moroccan Open, finishing 51st. Then, in Frankfurt, he linked together superb scores of 69, 65, 67 and 65 for an aggregate of 266. "I knew he was a gifted player but I'm amazed that he played so well through all four rounds," said Langer. "There was a lot of pressure on him."

The pressure came right down to his final putt of seven feet. By holing it he could finish one shot ahead of Langer. More importantly, as it turned out, that putt was worth an additional £2,321 to Eckstein. It never looked



Langer his idol: Eckstein, determined to reach the top of the ladder

like missing and so, with winnings now of £8,625 this season, he is 106th in the Epson Order of Merit. There will be no need to return to La Manga in November, as a card should be his as a member of the leading 125 in the money list at the end of this season.

Jacklin was most impressed by the tall, strapping lad from Hamburg who stands over the ball with an L-shaped posture and strikes it with real authority. "I got the feeling watching him that there is something very special there," said Jacklin. "He might

not have been known outside of West Germany before this but I think he will be by this time next year. He's taken one of the toughest steps up the ladder. He's peered over the top to see what is there and he can only go now from strength to strength."

Eckstein, a member of the national junior team, now lives in Hanover, where he is coached by Horst Koch, whose daughter, Martina, is considered to be the best woman amateur golfer in the country. Eckstein did win the Orange Bowl, the unofficial world championship for under-18s, in Florida in 1985 and since turning professional he has won five times in official German events.

"He works very hard," said Gunter Marks, one of West Germany's foremost golf writers. "He practises for no less than four hours each day and he always plays one round. There is nothing but golf on his mind. He thinks, eats and drinks it day and night."

Studies sacrificed to pursue golf career

"He is physically very fit as he also runs every day and bikes a lot. He left school, where he was a promising student, three years early so that he could concentrate on golf."

Jacklin has predicted that there will be more Continental players in the European Ryder Cup team in 1989 and Arnold Palmer has insisted that only now is the golf boom in Europe really taking off. In Eckstein there would appear to be further evidence of that, especially as \$5,000 amateurs now play the game in West Germany on 225 courses, compared to 50,000 on 120 courses five years ago.

There are also 250 professionals now, compared to 110 when Langer first broke through in 1980. "There are three or four others who are showing good promise," said Langer. "But I have always said that Oliver would make it."

Heading off a conflict of interests

By John Hennessy

Somewhere in the forest of junior golf something stirs. Whether it is an innocent passing disturbance, or the beginning of a larger upheaval, will be revealed in the course of a conference called by the Royal and Ancient at St Andrews on October 13.

At the heart of the situation is the growth of the Golf Foundation, set up in 1952 for the specific aim of "introducing more young people to the sport and developing their skills and enjoyment of the game." A suspicion seems to be gaining grounds in some quarters, notably the English Golf Union and the Scottish Golf Union, that it is getting too big for its well-intentioned boots.

For three decades the foundation beavered away successfully at grass-roots level, though not

to such purpose as to make other establishments feel threatened. In the last five years or so, however, it has attracted more support, financial and otherwise, and has widened its horizons.

Lesley Attwood, the foundation's immensely able executive director, found a dynamic ally three years ago in Keith Mackenzie, who became the foundation's president upon giving up as secretary of the R & A.

This year the foundation established an age group championship, in association with the National Westminster Bank, and incorporated a prize for boys under 16, whereas their previous tournament was for boys under 15 and girls under 16.

The EGU, now gathers they are unwilling to discuss the

matter in the record in advance of the St Andrews meeting began to look askance at what they regarded as an encroachment on their territory and regarded the new event as a direct clash with tournaments in which they had a special interest, particularly the Carver Trophy and, along with the other three national golf unions, the British Boys' Championship.

The foundation's answer is that those events are for boys under 18, so that there would be no overlap. There are, of course, occasional gifted players who can hold their own with boys two years older but they would be few and would surely opt for the more important events, "and with the Golf Foundation's blessing," Mackenzie says. "We have no desire to tread on anyone's toes."

Mackenzie explains: "The

main difficulty at the moment is that youngsters can usually get into golf clubs only if their parents are already members, or a close friend can pull a few strings."

This was the case with Lee Westwood, an outstanding 14-year-old in the age group championships at Patsburg Park last month, who shared the lowest score with a boy in the oldest age group. Lee's father, a schoolteacher, suggested two Augusts ago that his son should join him in a fishing expedition. This did not appeal to the lad, so they tried golf instead. By the end of the year his father's headmaster, a member of Westwood, had persuaded the club to accept the boy as a junior member.

Peter Baker is only one of a long list of now-celebrated golfers who have passed through

Golf Foundation (and, to be fair, EGU) lands. It includes David Gifford, Paul Way, Michael McLean, James Cook and Wayne Henry. Baker was at Patsburg Park, as he put it, "as a means of giving something back to the foundation."

Mackenzie growled: "I wish some of the senior guffers who want to keep these youngsters out in the cold would come here and see them. They would learn a thing or two about etiquette and correct deportment."

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the present disagreement it is in the interests of the game that the R & A, who, incidentally, give generous financial support to the Golf Foundation's Schools' championship, held in May, finds some means of enabling the various factions to reach common ground.

MOTOR RACING

Birmingham talks on Grand Prix

Birmingham is to make inquiries about staging a round-the-houses Formula One Grand Prix. It was confirmed yesterday.

The decision was made after the city successfully staged Formula 3000 racing over the Bank Holiday weekend and attracted crowds of more than 120,000.

John Charlton, chairman of the city road race sub-committee, said the council would seek talks with the British Motor Racing about the possibility of a Grand Prix on the city centre circuit.

Scepticism was expressed overnight by people connected

with the sport about Birmingham's ability to stage a full Grand Prix. But Charlton said: "We want to talk to the powers that be in motor racing about it to put our case, and to listen."

John Nicol, competitions director for the British Road and Sports Car Club, said the main problem would be the pits and paddocks facilities. He said they would not be up to Formula One standard but added that council engineers had made improvements this year to the road circuit itself.

Franz Klammer, the former world and Olympic downhill skiing champion, drives in this

Sunday's Istet RAC tourist trophy race at Silverstone, his first race in this country. The Australian, who dominated the skiing scene during the 1970s, will be at the wheel of a Mercedes 190 in the 105-lap, 300-kilometre race, which counts as the seventh round of the FIA world touring car championship. British hopes centre on a Londoner, Steve Soper, who drives a Texaco Ford Sierra Cosworth.

Irish jaunt

Arsenal, without a first division game this weekend, travel to Ireland to play Cork City.

RUGBY UNION

Carr back in training

Nigel Carr, Ireland's wing forward, is back in light training and determined to resume his career (George A. writes).

"Progress has been slow and my right ankle and left leg are causing problems, but I am hopeful that I will be playing rugby again by at least the new year," Carr said yesterday.

And that is good and bad news: good for Ireland, but not so good for Ulster, who meet Yorkshire at Morley on September 26 in the first representative game of the season, before the inter-provincial series gets underway via the following month.

Carr sustained head, rib, leg

and ankle injuries in a bomb explosion earlier this year which killed a Northern Ireland High Court judge and his wife. Carr, along with two fellow World Cup players, David Irwin and Philip Rainey, was on his way to an Ireland training session in Dublin when the incident happened.

Meanwhile, Ballymena open what promises to be a memorable century year tomorrow evening with a game against the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds XV at Eaton Park. At the same venue on Friday they take on the Irish Wolfhounds.

BASKETBALL

Signing of Thomas a coup for Royals

By a Special Correspondent

The annual scramble to sign American talent for the forthcoming English season has produced the usual crop of coups and disappointments. But leading the successes are the Hemel and Watford Royals, who have pulled off a remarkable signing in the 6ft 7in frame of Danny Thomas from Indiana, the national collegiate champion.

Hemel concede that they have agreed to fly Thomas to the United States in October for a trial with Sacramento, the national Basketball Association team, but are confident he will be back playing at forward or centre. An English addition is Andy Innes, who left Kingston for more court time with Hemel.

To add further spice to the season, which will be administered by the newly-formed Basketball League, an organization set up by first division clubs to run and represent their affairs, is Hemel's recruitment of Cassius Kellybrow, the American forward and younger brother of BCP London's Brian — who, at 6ft 9in, is described as being bigger, faster and better than Kellybrow senior.

Manchester United announced their line-up with an old face missing — Will Brown, the long-term guard. He was replaced by Curtis Hunter, a 6ft 5in guard and one of a flood of signings that include Alan Byrd and Michael Blunt (last season's most valuable player, from Calderdale), as United aim to clinch the major trophy that has recently eluded them.

The Bracknell Pioneers have suffered a setback as two players from Syracuse, the NBA's semi-finalists, Greg Monroe, the guard, and Howard Trish, a forward, have decided against a career in England and flown back to the United States.

Mark Dunning, the Bracknell coach, said: "We are now put in the position of running around looking for replacements with only a month before league games begin."

England travel to Istanbul in good heart for the European championships, which start tomorrow, following their victory in the tripartite tournament with Norway and Hungary in Oslo.

RESULTS: England 87, Norway 88; England 124, Hungary 105; England 90, Hungary 84; England 74, Norway 85.

OLYMPIC GAMES

IOC wait for reply from North Korea

Lansane (AP) — The head of the International Olympic Committee will not call a fifth meeting to discuss co-hosting of the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul, unless North Korea responds to his latest proposal, an IOC spokesman, Michele Verdier, said yesterday.

Jean Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president, in a letter to the North Korean Olympic Committee on August 24, made clear he does not consider the North's reduction of its co-hosting to a mere last month as a concession to his July 15 offer. "They didn't answer specifically to our proposal. We are still waiting," he said.

Verdier reiterated the IOC position that a new round of the three-way talks, at IOC headquarters here, will not be held before North Korea replies to the July proposal by the Olympic body and South Korea, whose capital is the designated Games host.

Samaranch is currently absent and scheduled to return here on September 14, as an IOC executive board meeting starting the next day.

Law Report September 2 1987 Chancery Division

International Tin Council must disclose whereabouts of assets within UK

Maclaine Watson & Co Ltd v International Tin Council
Before Mr Justice Millett
[Judgment July 9]

Although the International Tin Council (Immunities and Privileges) Order (SI 1972 No 120) conferred upon the International Tin Council (ITC) the legal power of a body corporate, that did not bring the ITC within the scope of Order 48 of the Rules of the Supreme Court nor did it confer the necessary power on the court to do so and accordingly officers of the ITC could not be made subject to a court order for examination under Order 48, rule 1.

However, despite the unavailability of Order 48 the underlying policy would be forwarded and not frustrated by the court exercising its discretion under its inherent jurisdiction by making an order for disclosure against the ITC such as would not invade the immunities and privileges conferred by the 1972 Order on its executive chairman and other officers in respect of which the court had no jurisdiction.

Mr Justice Millett so held in the Chancery Division when dismissing an appeal by Peter Stephen Lau and/or some other officer of the defendant ITC against the court for examination in respect of what debts were owed to the ITC and whether the ITC had any and if so what other property or means of satisfying the judgment obtained by the plaintiffs.

In respect of the plaintiffs' motion for discovery, the Lordship ordered the ITC to disclose to the plaintiffs full particulars of the nature, value and location of all its assets within the United

Kingdom to be verified by the affidavit of a proper officer nominated by the ITC.

Mr Richard McCombe for the plaintiffs; Mr Nicholas Chambers, QC and Mr Peter Irwin for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE MILLETT said that the plaintiffs were ring-fencing members of the London Metal Exchange. In 1985 they entered into contracts with ITC for the purchase and sale of tin. ITC defaulted on those contracts. The plaintiffs' claims were referred to arbitration.

In November 1986 the plaintiffs obtained an award in their favour which was not satisfied. The plaintiffs obtained leave to enforce the award in the same manner as a judgment or order to the same effect.

On November 25, 1986 the plaintiffs entered judgment against the ITC for £6,034,376 which remained unsatisfied. The plaintiffs sought to enforce their judgment against the ITC's own assets.

The 1972 Order conferred on the ITC the legal capacities of a body corporate. Those included the capacity to hold property with the result that such property was distinct from that of its members, so that a judgment obtained against it in its own name was recoverable only from its own assets. (See *Bonsor v Musicians' Union* [1956] AC 104).

The ITC had no immunity from legal process to enforce the arbitration award which the plaintiffs had obtained. The difficulty arose from the lack of information as to the extent and whereabouts of the ITC's assets.

To discover what assets, and in particular what bank accounts, the ITC had against which their judgment could be enforced, the plaintiffs had

sought information from the ITC, but all requests for such information had been refused. The ITC had behaved more like a disreputable private company than a body corporate and its creditors than the responsible international organization that it claimed to be. As a result the plaintiffs had been compelled to make an application under Order 48, rule 1.

Their application was refused by the master and in case the language of Order 48 did not permit the relief sought, the plaintiffs asked in the alternative for the like relief under the inherent jurisdiction of the court.

The main submission on behalf of the ITC was that it was neither an individual nor a body corporate, but an unincorporated association. As it was not an individual, it could not be made subject to a court order under Order 48, rule 1, and as it was not a body corporate, Order 48 did not authorize the court to order one of its officers to attend for that purpose.

The plaintiffs had to show that the ITC was a body corporate for the purpose of Order 48. It was common ground that it was not a body corporate.

As was pointed out in *In re International Tin Council* (The Times January 27, 1987; [1987] 2 WLR 1229, 1238), the ITC was not incorporated in the UK or anywhere else. It was a body corporate, but the legal power of a body corporate, but the creation of treaty.

Parliament had not granted it the status, but only the legal capacities, of a body corporate and it had not provided that it should be deemed to be, or should be treated as, a body corporate. If Order 48 stood

alone, it clearly would not confer power on the court to order an officer of the ITC to attend and be orally examined.

The plaintiffs argued that the ITC was by force of the 1972 Order, amenable to the process of execution, and specifically to the exercise of the court's powers under Order 48, to the same extent and in the same manner as a body corporate.

The answer was that what was missing was not the capacity of the ITC, but the power of the court. Potential liability must not be confused with actual liability. The 1972 Order made the ITC fully competent to be made subject to process such as that envisaged by Order 48, but that was not enough.

To impose the process required an order of the court, and the power of the court to make the necessary order must be sought somewhere.

Unfortunately for the plaintiffs, the power conferred on the court by Order 48 to order one of the judgment debtor's officers to attend and be orally examined was confined to the case where the judgment debtor was a body corporate while the 1972 Order was concerned with the competence of the ITC and not that of the court.

The plaintiffs could not derive any assistance from the fact that the 1972 Order conferred on the ITC not merely legal capacity *in toto*, or the legal capacities of a natural person, but specifically the legal power of a body corporate.

But the difficulty lay not in any want of capacity on the part of the ITC, but in the absence of any power in the court to make the orders sought. Order 48 made special provision for the judgment debtor which was a body corporate, not because of its status, but because

of its physical inability to attend personally and be orally examined.

There was nothing in Order 48 to preclude its application to the ITC. That, however, was not enough for the plaintiffs to succeed. Since Order 48, read alone, did not apply to the ITC, they had to show that the 1972 Order either brought the ITC within its scope or itself conferred the necessary power on the court. In his Lordship's judgment, it did neither. Accordingly the appeal was dismissed.

There remained the plaintiffs' application for similar relief under the inherent jurisdiction of the court.

Section 37(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 conferred jurisdiction to grant an injunction whenever it appeared to the court to be just and convenient to do so, and Order 29(1) allowed an application for the grant of an injunction to be made at any time before or after the trial of a cause or matter.

It was now clearly established that the court had jurisdiction under section 37(1) to grant a *Mareva* injunction before trial in order to restrain a defendant from removing from the jurisdiction so much of its assets as might be needed to meet the plaintiff's pending claim. The object was to prevent a defendant from frustrating the judgment of the court by removing assets from the jurisdiction or concealing them with a view to rendering execution ineffective.

In the present case, the plaintiffs rightly did not seek a *Mareva* injunction. There was no reason to believe that the ITC would remove its assets from the jurisdiction in order to defeat execution.

The plaintiffs sought only an order for discovery in aid of

execution, the procedure of Order 48 being unavailable.

The ITC contended that there was no jurisdiction to make such an order in the absence of a *Mareva* injunction. It was, however, fallacious to reason from the fact that an order for discovery could be made as ancillary to a *Mareva* injunction to the conclusion that it could not be made except as ancillary to such an injunction.

The basis of the jurisdiction was the same; that it appeared to the court to be just and convenient to exercise it. It was necessary to consider why no such order had been made in the past, and why it was sought now.

Before judgment, as Lord Justice Dillon pointed out in *Ashtiani v Kashi* ([1986] 2 All ER 970, 977), the disclosure of foreign assets could not be regarded as ancillary to the making of a *Mareva* injunction limited to English assets, and could not stand on its own feet as a primary exercise of jurisdiction. If the *Mareva* exercise was limited to English assets.

Given those constraints, it was difficult to see how an order for pre-trial discovery of assets could ever be justified except in aid of a *Mareva* injunction or where the plaintiff was claiming to trace assets.

After judgment, however, as Order 48 itself showed, those constraints no longer had any force. The court had power to make orders against a judgment debtor's assets by way of execution, and to order discovery of its assets in order to make execution effective. The reason why no such orders had previously been made was that it was normally sufficient to involve the provisions of Order 48, see *A. J. Bekhor & Co Ltd v Bilton* ([1981] QB 923, 954).

In the present case, the order

sought might properly be said to be sought for the purpose of implementing or in aid of the judgment previously obtained by the plaintiffs. It was, within proper limits, the policy of the courts to prevent a defendant from removing its assets from the jurisdiction or concealing them within it so as to deny a successful plaintiff the fruits of his judgment.

That was the policy which underlay the *Mareva* jurisdiction before and after judgment, pre-trial discovery or assets in aid of the *Mareva* jurisdiction and Order 48. That policy could only be given effect if a defendant could be ordered when necessary to provide information about the nature and whereabouts of its assets.

It could only be given effect in the present case if the court had power to make the order sought. Although Order 48 was not available, the underlying policy of that Order would be frustrated, not frustrated, by the order, and his Lordship said there was no doubt that it was just and convenient to make it. No ground had been put forward why discretion should be exercised against making the order, and his Lordship said there was none.

There was of course no jurisdiction in the court to invade the privileges and immunities conferred by the 1972 Order on the executive chairman and other officers of the ITC. The plaintiffs accepted that the executive chairman could not be required to provide the information sought.

No similar privilege or immunity was accorded to other officers of the ITC. Paragraph 16 of the 1972 Order accorded them immunity from suit and legal process only "in respect of things done or omitted to be done by them in the course of their official duties". The ITC submitted that that gave them immunity from legal process to compel them to give evidence in respect of anything known to them by virtue of their official position.

done by them in the course of the performance

ATHLETICS: RECURRING HAMSTRING INJURY FORCES CHRISTIE TO WITHDRAW FROM 200 METRES

The test of the integrity of sport



Rome

The world championships continue with a quality which challenges the status of the Olympic Games, yet under the ever-present allegation of widespread drug abuse. Unofficial sources at two of the Mobil-IAAF grand prix events have confirmed to *The Times* that clandestine approaches were received from individual coaches and from federations enquiring whether certain athletes would be able to avoid drug tests on a particular date.

The major threat to the credibility of athletics, I have regularly stressed, is not professionalism but the use of drugs. Luciano Barra, the general secretary of the organizing committee here, said yesterday: "We have to find a system in which competitors can be tested in the critical period immediately before a championships takes place."

This is the key to checking the abuse. It is no coincidence that several Eastern European nations stage major domestic championships or trials, free of drug surveillance, about five weeks before international championships, and in the intervening period their athletes are able to become "clean".

Drugs that mask other drugs

Medical science research, Barra admits, is consistently some way ahead of the attempts by the medical commissions of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to stem the cheating. What is now also available is barrier counter-drugs, which mask the enhancement substances and render other drugs immune to detection. It is necessary now for detection of these masking drugs to be ruled a proof of abuse. The small number of positive tests has become absurdly unrealistic.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the IOC, supports the proposal by Andreas Brugger, the promoter of Zurich's grand prix, to institute drug testing as a pre-condition of entry for international events. "The problem," Samaranch says, "would be how an independent medical commission could operate their inspection in certain countries."

Brugger's suggestion is for testing three weeks prior to major championships. "It is the only solution," he says. "The costs of operating independent medical commissions would be minimal compared with the negative impact of sports administration failing to get control of the abuse."

It would make sense, Samaranch says, for a random survey to be taken of five to 10 per cent of a federation's entry.

Why the throwers were thrown out

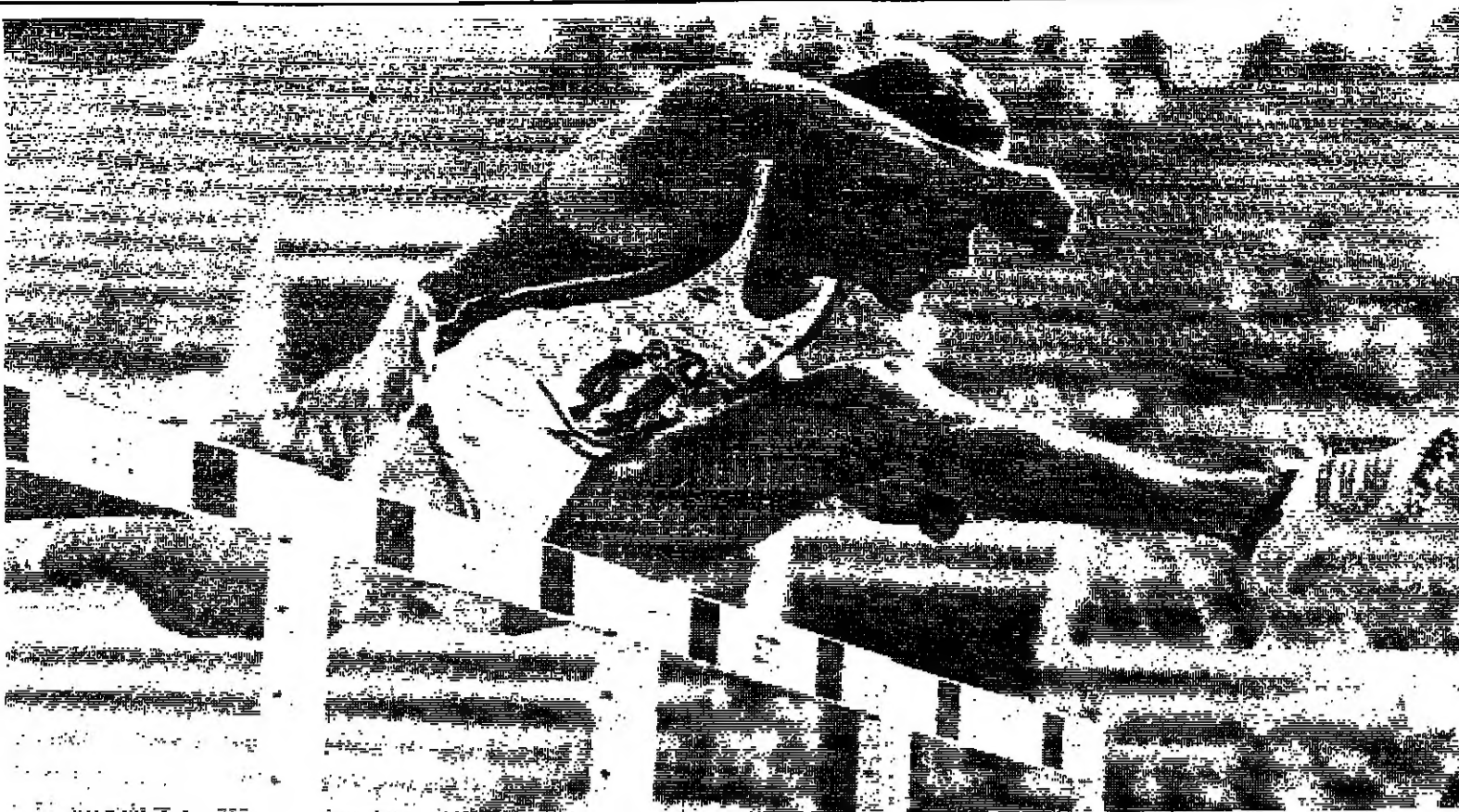
So dismayed is Brugger, a former Swiss shot put champion, with the increase in drug taking that he has refused to stage throwing events in his grand prix. "It doesn't make sense to include field events if throwers won't compete," he says. "The reason is so obvious."

Because grands prix have drug testing, he has found it almost impossible to find throwers willing to compete. He is contemptuous of those national federations who keep their competitors out of international events prior to major championships on what they term the principle of "periodization".

Professor Benzi, one of Italy's experts on pharmaceutical manipulation by athletes, says that there are now additional performance enhancement substances not included in the list of banned drugs, so fast is the technology of human chemistry advancing.

The IAAF held a congress in May for 300 doctors and athletes, aware that those seeking ways to cheat are increasing the pace. Luciano Barra agrees that there are some countries where independent external scrutiny would be extremely difficult.

The rate of detection could be faster and more accurate if athletic medical commissions were able to use blood tests instead of urine tests, yet because of legal and religious objections on invasion of privacy it is impossible to have such a voluntary system established internationally.



Low flying: Jon Ridgeon, of Britain, on his way to a heat victory in the 100m hurdles (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Fanning the flames of fame

From Pat Butcher
Athletics Correspondent
Rome

Linford Christie's traumatic week reached its lowest point when he withdrew from the 200 metres yesterday. The cramp which he incurred near the end of the 100m on Sunday got worse, and when it recurred in the warm-up for yesterday's 200m heats, he decided not to risk it.

According to Tony Ward, the British team press officer, Christie said: "The top of my right hamstring is knotted. It was brought on when I lunged for the line in the 100m. I had treatment, but I'm not ready to go for another 24 hours. It's an aggravated injury I got in the European indoor championships. The inference was that Christie would decide either today or tomorrow whether he would run in Saturday's 4 x 100m relay heats.

That possibility is also dependent on Frank Dick, the national coach, and Christie being able to agree on what position he will run in the team. That debate, caused by



mutual distaste between athlete and coach and exacerbated by claim and counter-claim during the last week, have contributed to an atmosphere which the whole team could do without.

But the situation was further disturbed for Christie yesterday by a conflicting report from his manager, who also happens to be a Norwegian journalist. According to Anne-Lise Hammer, the injury is so bad that Christie will not run for the rest of the season.

All this for an injury which according to himself following the 100m on Sunday was "nothing serious", is stretching both hamstring and credibility. Christie's refusal

to talk to the Press directly does not help either.

In athletics terms, Christie has not done badly this week. He was never going to trouble Ben Johnson and Carl Lewis in the 100m. Ray Stewart had looked better in every round, but Christie, in fourth place, firmly reiterated his European supremacy. He should be even better for the Olympic Games next year if he can put this nonsense behind him.

He has contributed to his being a media figure, offering pungent quotes, and wrapping the Union Jack round his spectacular frame after winning the European title last year. It was all lapped up, regurgitated, and is now being aimed back in his direction. He is supplying the fan, the better to disseminate it. If he is not badly injured he should run the relay, in whatever position, and then argue for he is justified in doing so — that Dick is wrong to demand that he run a middle leg. He might also choose his counsel and his words more carefully in the future.

In contrast, Lewis has come

out of his defeat as well as anyone who has lost a world title. He equalled the previous world record, and he did not avoid racing an obvious winner in Johnson, when he could have chosen the 200m, and run away with that himself.

The organizers of the post-championship meeting in Rieti, just north of Rome, are desperately trying to persuade Lewis to join Johnson in a rematch next Tuesday. That should be worth a few bob to

both of them. Britain is one of seven countries to protest another organizational gaff, the cancellation of last night's steeplechase heats in favour of two 19-man semi-finals.

That is far too many people when hundreds of barriers are strewn across the track. The rumour that there had been a straight 10,000m final to benefit Francesco Panatta has resurfaced. They could easily have been dissipated by having three semi-finals.

Second lesson in trust

Rome — Rosa Mota, who won the women's world championship marathon here on Saturday, will have to content herself with being a spectator at the 10,000m final on Friday, despite her wish to take part (David Powell writes). Jose Pedrosa, Miss Mota's coach, said yesterday that the Portuguese Federation had refused to select her because it did not think it wise for her to run both events.

The third Portuguese athlete chosen for the 10,000m failed to qualify from Monday's heats in a time more than two minutes slower than Miss Mota's best.

The marathon champion said that she normally recovers quickly and had 23,000 training runs of 40 minutes on Monday.

The Portuguese Federation should have learned by now to trust Miss Mota's assessment of her capabilities, rather than judge for itself. In 1982, it insisted that she compete in the 3,000m but Miss Mota wanted to run her first marathon. A compromise was reached. To satisfy the federation she raced the 3,000m. She finished with a time of 10:00.00, the reigning world champion, which put her out of the event.

Although the wind speed was not to everyone's liking, yesterday's race was otherwise held in perfect conditions, in which Harthey and Tillet had built up a notable lead by the first mark.

They so spreaded the fleet that, in accordance with the rules, any boat not finishing within 30 minutes of the leader had to be disqualified. So no less than half of the 50-strong fleet did not receive a result. The race jury were last night convening to amend this time to a more realistic figure.

RESULTS: Flying Dutchman 1, W Henderson and A Bowers (GB); 2, D Williams and P Kennedy (Ireland); 3, C Searley and J Hodgson (GB); 4, A Bowers and P Moller (US); 5, J Pudney and M Clarke (GB). Other British placing: 11, J Evans and T Knight (GB).

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YACHTING

British crew deny breach of rules in Admiral's Cup

From Barry Pickthall, Kiel, West Germany

The skipper of Indulgence, Harold Cudmore, plus Graham Walker, the boat's owner, and Eddie Warden Owen, its helmsman, yesterday all denied categorically New Zealand claims that they had been involved in dumping water ballast during the recent Admiral's Cup series.

Walker said yesterday that he had not been aboard Indulgence during the Channel Race, but would not condone any form of cheating or rule-bending.

"We raced with our water tanks empty and carried only the minimum 34 litres stipulated in the rules in plastic containers in all the races except the Fastnet," Cudmore stated yesterday.

"Indeed, we raced all season without the tanks fitted, and installed them only on the eve of the Admiral's Cup to fulfil the regulations, and they were not used until the Fastnet race, when they were filled to a minimal amount."

Warden Owen confirmed that a discussion had taken place about the use of water ballast in racing yachts between him and two New Zealand journalists at the Holiday Inn, Plymouth, at the end of the Fastnet race, but denied that he had ever admitted that the crew on Indulgence ever used water to balance the boat.

"We did discuss this in general, and I can only surmise that

there has been a misunderstanding. We certainly have not used water as ballast all season," Warden Owen said emphatically.

Under the threat of legal action, Larry Keating, a New Zealand broadcaster, recanted the signed statement he gave to *The Times* on Monday, saying on the BBC that he had been misinterpreted.

Meanwhile, following the accusations made against some yachts competing in the One Ton Cup at Kiel, they had taken on water ballast illegally during the recent Admiral's Cup, the international jury issued a positive check on the leading boats as they neared the finish of the 380-mile long offshore race on Monday night, and have sent some water tanks for analysis.

The jury found no evidence of the illicit water being used as moveable ballast during the Channel and Fastnet races, though it was unlikely that any would have been in use during the light-air spinaker run to the finish.

Tom Krieger, the owner of I-Punkt, the Austrian yacht at the centre of the storm surrounding the use of water ballast, neither confirmed nor denied, when interviewed by a West German journalist yesterday, that his crew had used the bags to increase the righting moment of his yacht.

Ill winds prove a blessing

From Roger Lean-Vercos
Lake Inawashiro, Japan

James Harley and Ian Tillet yesterday demonstrated their mastery in force five conditions in the first race of the international 14 world championship regatta being held here, while British crews also took second, third and fifth places.

The winds on this lake, some 150 miles to the north of Tokyo, are generally light at this time of year. Yesterday's unexpected breeze, which gave the British a chance to exploit heavy weather skills, was left over from a passing typhoon, which caused the abandonment of Monday's practice race, after a couple of broken masts and more seriously, an injury to James Kidd, of Canada, the reigning world champion, which put him out of the event.

Although the wind speed was not to everyone's liking, yesterday's race was otherwise held in perfect conditions, in which Harthey and Tillet had built up a notable lead by the first mark.

They so spreaded the fleet that, in accordance with the rules, any boat not finishing within 30 minutes of the leader had to be disqualified. So no less than half of the 50-strong fleet did not receive a result. The race jury were last night convening to amend this time to a more realistic figure.

RESULTS: Flying Dutchman 1, W Henderson and A Bowers (GB); 2, D Williams and P Kennedy (Ireland); 3, C Searley and J Hodgson (GB); 4, A Bowers and P Moller (US); 5, J Pudney and M Clarke (GB). Other British placing: 11, J Evans and T Knight (GB).

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Irish pay heavy penalty

By Malcolm McKee

There was a double dose of misfortune for David Wilkins and Peter Kennedy, the Irish Olympic sailors, in the Flying Dutchman class at the NaWey Weymouth Olympic Week yesterday.

Before they went aloft they were disqualified from an apparently well-deserved win in Monday's race, then shortly after the long delayed start of yesterday's race the shift light breezes which replaced Monday's blustery conditions dropped them almost to last in the 10-boat fleet.

The pair recovered to second behind the top British pair of Will Henderson and Andy Bowers who, having been promoted to first in Monday's race following the Irish disqualification, overhauled yesterday's early leaders, Charles Anthon and Julian Pearson, and now take a commanding overall lead in this premier British regatta for Olympic dinghies.

The Irish pair were disqualified for being overweight. In heavy weather the fittest dinghy sailors carry their own weight, but in the form of a water filled weight-jacket the total weight of a competitor's clothing cannot exceed 20kg. Kennedy was found to be 1.3kg over the limit.

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Monday

Men

400 metres
SECOND ROUND (First three in each heat and overall four fastest losers qualify for semi-finals. Qualifiers for semi-finals: Heat one: 1, D Redmond (GB), 1:04.03; 2, R Hernandez (Cuba), 1:04.53; 3, M Senechal (CAN), 1:04.53; 4, C Clark (USA), 1:04.53; 5, T Schenker (EG), 1:04.53; 6, D Kilmer (Ken), 1:04.53; 7, R Haley (USA), 1:04.53; 8, B Cameron (USA), 1:04.53; 9, J Egan (Ireland), 1:04.53; 10, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 11, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 12, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 13, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 14, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 15, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 16, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 17, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 18, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 19, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 20, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 21, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 22, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 23, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 24, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 25, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 26, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 27, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 28, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 29, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 30, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 31, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 32, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 33, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 34, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 35, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 36, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 37, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 38, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 39, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 40, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 41, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 42, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 43, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 44, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 45, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 46, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 47, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 48, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 49, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 50, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 51, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 52, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 53, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 54, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 55, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 56, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 57, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 58, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 59, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 60, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 61, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 62, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 63, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 64, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 65, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 66, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 67, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 68, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 69, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 70, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 71, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 72, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 73, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 74, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 75, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 76, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 77, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 78, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 79, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 80, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 81, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 82, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 83, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 84, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 85, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 86, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 87, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 88, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 89, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 90, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 91, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 92, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 93, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 94, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 95, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 96, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 97, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 98, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 99, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 100, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 101, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 102, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 103, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 104, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 105, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 106, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 107, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 108, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 109, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 110, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 111, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 112, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 113, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 114, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 115, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 116, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 117, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 118, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 119, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 120, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 121, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 122, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 123, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 124, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 125, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 126, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 127, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 128, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 129, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 130, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 131, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 132, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 133, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 134, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 135, H Reay (Ireland), 1:04.53; 136, D Morris (USA), 1:04.53; 137, H Reay

CRICKET: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FRUSTRATED AS HAMPSHIRE AND LANCASHIRE WIN IN RUN CHASES

Tactical switch fails to help Notts increase their lead

TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire (7) drew with Derbyshire (7).

Nottinghamshire's lead in the championship table was seriously eroded yesterday, when their batting broke down as they chased a target of 210 in 34 overs. They were 105 for five when the match was given up eight overs from the end. It was the final surprise on a day which drastically changed its pattern half-way through.

For the first three hours, Derbyshire were bedevilled every run as Hemmings bowled 32 overs of subtle, tormenting off-spin. It took Derbyshire 47 overs to clear their first-innings deficit of 50 and by mid-afternoon, the game was heading for stalemate.

With the score 131 for three from 68 overs, Nottinghamshire switched tactics and used occasional bowlers to feed their opponents cheap runs. It may or may not have been coincidence that at this juncture, Hemmings left the field, reportedly with a back strain.

In the next 17 hours, Derbyshire almost doubled their score and at tea they declared at 259 for five. Morris took advantage to make 106 of the easiest runs he will score in his life. He actually moved from 50 to 102 in 15 minutes, as he

hit 11 fours and a six from 21 balls.

Malcolm and Mortensen bowled much better than on Monday as Nottinghamshire's run-chase began. A series of disasters left them on 59 for five, with 18 overs left, and still the unusual tactical thinking that marked the day was not over.

OVERS: First innings 300 (N) 100, 130, 160, 190, 220, 250, 280, 310, 340, 370, 400, 430, 460, 490, 520, 550, 580, 610, 640, 670, 700, 730, 760, 790, 820, 850, 880, 910, 940, 970, 1000.

OVERS: Second innings 100, 130, 160, 190, 220, 250, 280, 310, 340, 370, 400, 430, 460, 490, 520, 550, 580, 610, 640, 670, 700, 730, 760, 790, 820, 850, 880, 910, 940, 970, 1000.

OVERS: Third innings 100, 130, 160, 190, 220, 250, 280, 310, 340, 370, 400, 430, 460, 490, 520, 550, 580, 610, 640, 670, 700, 730, 760, 790, 820, 850, 880, 910, 940, 970, 1000.

Lynch earns win with top score

COLCHESTER: Surrey (22) beat Essex (4) by three wickets.

Surrey's victory, always likely after the first morning's play, took rather longer to come about than they would have imagined yesterday morning. Needing 147, they were only through Monte Lynch making the highest score of the match.

It was only last winter that Essex wanted Lynch to join them. In light of what has happened to their middle order this season, it would have been no bad thing if he had. Yesterday he stood four square at the crease and was severe on Foster as he bowled.

That the top score was only 69 says much about the pitch and the conditions. It was humid all day, a bowler such as Lynch could do little but bowl the ball about and pick up cheap wickets. If Essex had scored another 25 runs, they might well have won.

Yet Fletcher was out in the first over of the day. Miller soon followed. Although Foster added 54 with the last three wickets left for 16.

Time was no hindrance to Surrey, yet they tried to hit the cover off the ball from the outset. Bicknell batted with aplomb until he became the second of Gooch's three legs before victims.

Jesty was caught in the covers off a ball that stopped. Ward had

his middle stump plucked out by Foster and when Gooch was out soon after tea Surrey still required 57.

It was now that Lynch, initially circumspect against Foster, capitalized on his wayward deliveries. Gooch took two and a quarter hours.

OVERS: First innings 100, 130, 160, 190, 220, 250, 280, 310, 340, 370, 400, 430, 460, 490, 520, 550, 580, 610, 640, 670, 700, 730, 760, 790, 820, 850, 880, 910, 940, 970, 1000.

OVERS: Second innings 100, 130, 160, 190, 220, 250, 280, 310, 340, 370, 400, 430, 460, 490, 520, 550, 580, 610, 640, 670, 700, 730, 760, 790, 820, 850, 880, 910, 940, 970, 1000.

OVERS: Third innings 100, 130, 160, 190, 220, 250, 280, 310, 340, 370, 400, 430, 460, 490, 520, 550, 580, 610, 640, 670, 700, 730, 760, 790, 820, 850, 880, 910, 940, 970, 1000.

OVERS: Fourth innings 100, 130, 160, 190, 220, 250, 280, 310, 340, 370, 400, 430, 460, 490, 520, 550, 580, 610, 640, 670, 700, 730, 760, 790, 820, 850, 880, 910, 940, 970, 1000.

OVERS: Fifth innings 100, 130, 160, 190, 220, 250, 280, 310, 340, 370, 400, 430, 460, 490, 520, 550, 580, 610, 640, 670, 700, 730, 760, 790, 820, 850, 880, 910, 940, 970, 1000.



Run for the title: Mendis, of Lancashire, hits a four off Gloucestershire's Greene in his side's fourth successive championship win, which took them to within two points of the lead

Defeat signals the end for Northants

LEICESTER: Leicestershire (24) beat Northamptonshire (5) by an innings and 125 runs.

At 10 minutes past noon yesterday, the middle stump of Nick Cook was sent careering by Agnew. The picture frozen in the mind at the moment, when Northamptonshire not only lost to Leicestershire but finally relinquished their last tenuous grasp on the Britannia Assurance County Championship.

For them, at the end of a still memorable season, it is two down and one to go. The NorthWest Trophy final beckons, the Benson and Hedges Cup and the championship, so nearly won, are gone. Meanwhile, Leicestershire, maximum points secured here, are still in with a shout in the championship stakes and certainly this performance, even against their temporarily downcast and injury-ridden neighbours, was impressive and sturdy comprehensive.

Agnew, with five for 47, took his 52nd wicket of the season and had match figures of 10 for 106. DeFreitas batted for three hours, adding to his removal of Lamb and he did so in a spell of six balls, which tore out what heart was left in the Northamptonshire batting. It was high-class fast bowling from both ends, which only Nick Cook, following stubborn resistance from his teammates, the Northamptonshire captain, played with any confidence.

Gooch Cook agreed that Northamptonshire had lost their way in recent matches. Their batting against Not-

Nicholas passes stiff test

MAIDSTONE: Hampshire (21) beat Kent (5) by seven wickets.

Mark Nicholas has survived his share of despondency and disappointment in the wake of his side's embarrassing performance against Coventry City at Hillsborough on Monday afternoon.

After Wednesday had slipped to a fourth defeat in five matches, angry supporters turned their fury on Wilkinson and Bert McGeach, his chairman, demanding immediate, sweeping changes at both managerial and board level.

In an attempt to make light of the situation, Wilkinson unwittingly played straight into the hands of some journalists by unleashing his notoriously dry humour at a post-match press conference.

With his tongue firmly in cheek, he boldly proclaimed: "The fans are asking for the resignation of the chairman and seem to want me to get the sack. Leaving football I could get the sack. We do seem to be suffering from a serious illness but in my view it is not terminal. Mind you, the chairman might send for a second opinion on that."

Reminded by banner headlines in some newspapers which seemed to be announcing his imminent departure, Wilkinson attempted to put the record straight yesterday by being unapologetically flippant.

"I did say that I might get the

Welcome win at expense of underdogs

Middlesex's second county championship win of the season was, like their first, gained at the expense of Sussex, the bottom club in the table (Coventry were 306 for victory at Uxbridge, made a dreadful start - losing three wickets for 10 runs in the first two overs - and found this too big a handicap. Colin Wells counter-attacked with 67 from 70 deliveries before holing out off Tufnell.

The left-arm spinner also

scored the wicket of Parker, who reached 85, his highest score of an injury-plagued season, before Sussex went down by 86 runs.

With Cowans ending the season strongly, Carr outstanding and Fraser, Tufnell and Brown settling in well, Middlesex can at least claim their re-building programme on course. Sussex, on the other hand, are badly in need of winter strengthening.

Warwickshire, only six points above Sussex, had little trouble saving the game against their neighbours Worcestershire at Edgbaston. Their batsmen made light of a first innings deficit of 262, scoring 391 for seven.

Women's Test match

NOVA: England drew with Australia.

AUSTRALIA: First innings 389 (P) 100, 130, 160, 190, 220, 250, 280, 310, 340, 370, 400, 430, 460, 490, 520, 550, 580, 610, 640, 670, 700, 730, 760, 790, 820, 850, 880, 910, 940, 970, 1000.

ENGLAND: First innings 389 (P) 100, 130, 160, 190, 220, 250, 280, 310, 340, 370, 400, 430, 460, 490, 520, 550, 580, 610, 640, 670, 700, 730, 760, 790, 820, 850, 880, 910, 940, 970, 1000.

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Lendl flushes Moir out and rushes off to the meadows

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, New York

Tennis champions often have to work seven days a week. That is one of the things. On the other hand the money is good and the people champions have to deal with tend to be uncommonly obliging. Ivan Lendl, for example, makes no secret of the fact that he prefers an early match in his local tournament, the United States Open championships, so that he can finish work early and hurry back to the golf course.

The championships began yesterday and Lendl was on court soon after the gates were open. He beat Barry Moir of Johannesburg 6-0, 6-0, 6-0, a course record that cannot be beaten. It was a lovely day and an envied Lendl the chance to flee from the concrete jungle of Flushing Meadows and spend a few green, relaxing hours hitting without running.

Lendl, Boris Becker, Henri Leconte, John McEnroe, Martina Navratilova, Flavia Mandlikova, Helena Sukova and Gabriela Sabatini were the stars of a distinguished first-day cast, though some were not due on court until America today had become Europe's tomorrow.

Usually there is a separate,

floodlit evening programme for the first 10 days. Next Monday, though, there will be no evening play because the New York Mets, under the impression that the tennis tournament would have finished, scheduled a baseball match - plus a fireworks display - in the adjacent Shea Stadium.

This prompts two thoughts. One is that the US championships are played in such a noisy, boisterous environment that fireworks would hardly have been noticed. The other is that if anyone noticed it would probably have been McEnroe, whose reaction might have tested even that tragedian's histrionic range.

Lendl and Miss Navratilova, last year's winners, are the only players here who hold two grand slam singles titles. This year Lendl won the French championship, and Miss Navratilova won Wimbledon. So these two remain precariously at the top of the heap. The other players to win grand slam singles titles this year were Stefan Edberg and Miss Mandlikova (Australian), Steffi Graf (French) and Pat Cash (Wimbledon).

Miss Graf has been beaten only once this year (by Miss Navratilova in the Wimbledon

final) and is already No. 1 according to the rankings computed over a 12-month period by the favourite technological toys of the players' associations. She should win here - indeed, she should have done so last year.

Last March one suggested that Miss Graf would win the French and US titles but that Miss Navratilova would win Wimbledon. So far, so good. On the other hand, if tennis writers could persistently pick winners we would be professional gamblers rather than professional journalists. Presumably we would also retire early.

The total prize money for the five championships is about \$2,140,000. The singles champions will each receive \$156,000 for winning seven matches. Such former champions as Rod Laver and Roy Emerson have cause for ambivalent feelings about that. Since their day, no man has been good enough to win four grand slam singles titles, which puts into perspective the achievements of more recent heroes.

RESULTS: Men's singles, first round: 1. Lendl (USA) 6-0, 6-0, 6-0, 6-0, 6-0. Women's singles, first round: 1. Navratilova (CZ) 6-1, 6-1, 6-1. 2. Graf (FR) 6-1, 6-1, 6-1. 3. Edberg (SWE) 6-1, 6-1, 6-1. 4. Becker (FR) 6-1, 6-1, 6-1.

FOOTBALL

Wilkinson is no longer joking

By Ian Ross

Howard Wilkinson, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, leapt to his own defence yesterday by insisting that his recent admission that he could shortly be dismissed from his post was nothing more than a misinterpreted joke.

An astonished Wilkinson arose on Monday morning to discover a sense of humour he readily admits is "sarcastic" had produced some unwelcome consequences in the wake of his side's embarrassing performance against Coventry City at Hillsborough on Monday afternoon.

After Wednesday had slipped to a fourth defeat in five matches, angry supporters turned their fury on Wilkinson and Bert McGeach, his chairman, demanding immediate, sweeping changes at both managerial and board level.

In an attempt to make light of the situation, Wilkinson unwittingly played straight into the hands of some journalists by unleashing his notoriously dry humour at a post-match press conference.

With his tongue firmly in cheek, he boldly proclaimed: "The fans are asking for the resignation of the chairman and seem to want me to get the sack. Leaving football I could get the sack. We do seem to be suffering from a serious illness but in my view it is not terminal. Mind you, the chairman might send for a second opinion on that."

Reminded by banner headlines in some newspapers which seemed to be announcing his imminent departure, Wilkinson attempted to put the record straight yesterday by being unapologetically flippant.

"I did say that I might get the

Southall is kept in reserve

Colin Harvey, the Everton manager, has resisted the temptation to recall Neville Southall, his world-class goalkeeper, for tonight's game against Queens' Park Rangers at Loftus Road (Ian Ross writes).

"I have never thought about getting the sack and I do not believe it will happen because I know that I am able to do the job. It was all just a joke; nothing more than a light-hearted aside," he added.

But despite Wilkinson's declaration of faith in his own abilities there is no doubt that his side - second to bottom in the first division, having picked up only one point from five games - will have to show a marked improvement in form over the coming weeks if whimsical fantasy is not to become hard fact.

Wilkinson's cause has hardly been helped by a series of injuries since the new season started, the latest being the loss for up to 12 weeks, of Steve McColl, his recently acquired full back, who fractured his left leg during Monday's 3-0 defeat.

Wilkinson's goalkeeper, Martin Hodge, has also been added to the club's casualty list and could miss Saturday's game against Southampton at The Dell. Hodge underwent a series of X-rays on an ankle he damaged against Coventry and although there is no ligament or bone damage there is substantial swelling.

"I don't know whether he will be ready by the weekend or not but I do not think it will prove to be a long-term problem," Wilkinson said. However, Mark Chamberlain, the former Everton forward, and Brian Marwood, injured during the game against Oxford United a fortnight ago, could well be available for Saturday's game.

"The situation is beginning to look a little healthier," Harvey said.

"We are looking forward to the game against Queens' Park Rangers. They are a good footballing side. We had them watched recently and were very impressed," he added.

Unchanged Forest are counting small change

Happily, without any injury problems, Brian Clough, the Nottingham Forest manager, expects to make no changes in his team for the game against Southampton at the City Ground tonight.

But although his young side remain

